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THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 2012

International Sheepdog Trials Pages 19-20

Firefighters win triple titles (See Page 10)

GCSE results round-up Pages 4, 5 and 6

BIG PORTHCAWL WELCOME FOR MARATHON CHARITY CYCLISTS!

Report by **PHILIP IRWIN**
Picture by **MALCOLM NUGENT**

NINE cyclists received an enthusiastic welcome home last Sunday (August 26) after completing a four-day ride around Wales.

It was a marathon effort, covering almost 400 miles in total, and it was completed despite the twin problems of injuries and torrential rain.

In fact, two of the nine made it home nursing swollen knees – and they were praised for their determination to finish the ride.

The charities benefiting were LATCH, the south Wales children's cancer charity, and 'Caravans for Kids' – which aims to buy a caravan in Trecco Bay so that LATCH can send sick children on respite holidays.

The nine cyclists were:

Paul Downes, Andrew Richards, Steve Williams, Dean Morgan, Jonathan Rimmer, James Lott, Dan Harris, Paul Downes jnr, and Christian Evans.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 25)

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POLICE PLEA OVER THEFT

POLICE are continuing to appeal for information, following a burglary on Ffynon Wen, North Cornelly.

They said that a number of distinctive items were taken from the terraced property when intruders forced entry sometime between 9am on Wednesday, July 18 and 12 noon on Wednesday, July 25.

The residents were away at the time of the incident.

The stolen property included a rare Taylor 812CE acoustic-electric guitar, a set of CallAway Diablo Edge golf clubs, a red Fender electric bass guitar, an iPhone 4 and a 50" Samsung plasma TV.

A further set of Donnay golf clubs, a PS2, PS3, computer games and several laptops were also stolen.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Are Bridgend's motorists callous? – *or more honest?*

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

A WELSH Government survey into attitudes towards parking in disabled 'blue badge' spaces has revealed a surprising difference between Bridgend and the Vale.

In the survey, only one person in 10 in the Vale admitted to parking in a 'blue badge' disabled space.

However, in Bridgend county borough, four times as many – four in 10 – said that they had parked their car in a disabled spot.

It begs the question: *'Are Bridgend people more callous than in the Vale – or just more honest?'*

The average around Wales was the one in 10 figure, and the worst offenders in Wales were found to be between 45–55; among whom one in six confessed that they invaded these reserved spaces "often".

These abuses of the 'Blue Badge' accessible parking system emerged in a survey of 1,009 people, conducted on behalf of the Welsh Government as part of a drive to encourage greater respect for the parking rights of disabled vehicle users.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 25)

LEFT: *Paralympic cyclist Simon Richardson is supporting a campaign to keep disabled parking spaces for blue badge holders.*

Local education chiefs praise GCSE efforts

EDUCATION chiefs in Bridgend have praised pupils, after this year's GCSE results were announced.

A spokesperson said: "Initial figures from the WJEC indicate that the proportion of candidates in the county borough achieving the highest grades (A* and A) in full course GCSEs has improved this year to 18.4 per cent – up from 17.8 per cent in 2011.

However, 63 per cent of candidates achieved passes at grades A* to C, a slight fall on the previous year (which was 64.3), and the proportion achieving a pass grade (grades A* to G) has risen slightly to 98.7 per cent (up from 98.5).

Coun Huw David, the cabinet member for children and young people, said: "As we have seen nationally, achieving a good pass at GCSE is certainly becoming no easier, so I am delighted by the achievements of our young people."

The Deputy Leader, Coun David Sage added: "As we know, these continue to be challenging times for young people across the country.

"So it's encouraging to see students in Bridgend county borough tackling the challenge head-on and responding so positively.

"I hope that as many as possible will continue in education and training so that they can gain the further qualifications and key skills that are increasingly vital to their future success.

"I would also like to thank our teachers and support staff in all our schools for their hard work and dedication to the success of their students."

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: *tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk*

Gala concert

BRIDGEND Male Choir has been invited to perform in a Gala concert at Caldicot Leisure Centre on Saturday, September 8 at 7pm arranged by Caldicot male choir.

On Friday, September 21, the choir will be holding its annual concert in St Mary's Catholic Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend.

The evening promises a real feast for music fans, and it will not be limited to male voice singing. Guest soloist will be Elinor Rolfe Johnson, soprano, this year's winner of the Russell Sheppard Trust Scholarship at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

The evening will also be enriched by the choir's talented musical team. Chief of these is Rhiannon Williams Hale ,the choir's musical director. Accompanist, Laura Smith, will be aided by Stephanie Bailey, and together they will play a piano duet. In addition, as Deputy Musical Director for the choir, Stephanie will share the baton with Rhiannon at some stage in the evening.

Finally, as if there were not already enough variety in the programme, organist Scott Williams, a regular at choir events, will once again display his mastery with a solo piece.

Tickets for the concert, £8, including a prize draw, are available from any chorister and will also be available at the door.

Gleemen

THE Maesteg 'Gleemen' male voice choir is again organising a series of competitions for youngsters: Bridgend young singer of the year is in two sections – Junior, 11-14 years of age; Senior, 15-18.

Prize money thanks to sponsorship by Dunraven Windows is £100 to the winner of each section and £300 to the competitor's school.

Application forms can be obtained from the schools and must be submitted by October 10, the venue for the auditions to be advised.

There will be another competition to include young adults aged between 19-26 from the whole of Wales, who must be studying classical singing full or part time, with the winner receiving £2,500 and a perpetual trophy, with runners up receiving £500 each.

The auditions for this competition will take place on November 3, at Maesteg town hall.

Charity efforts

OGMORE Valley male voice choir has raised thousands of pounds for many charities since its formation in 1982.

On Saturday, September 15 at 7pm, the choir will be holding its 30th annual charity concert in its own concert hall the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale.

This time, all money raised will be donated to 'Y Bont' the disabled children's charity.

Much-respected musical director, Eira Paskin, ensures the choir attains a high standard in choral music. Eira should be recognised for the effort she puts into choral music in the Bridgend CBC area as she is also the musical director of Cantorian Coety mixed voice choir. Even though it has only been in existence for a few years, it also has raised large amounts of money for charity.

The choir consists of approximately 40 members and has a resident solo artiste in Catrin Eleri Jenkin, a magnificent soprano who has been a winner in the Miners' Eisteddfod and placed in the Welsh National Eisteddfod.

It also has a versatile accompanist in Deb Lewis, who is an Associate of the London school of Music.

There will also be a number of guest artists. Tickets will cost £5and can be obtained from John on 01656 841429, or any choir member.

Parish concert

ON Friday, September 14 at 7pm at St John's Church, Aberkenfig, there is a special concert to raise money for parish funds, part of which will be used to renovate damage caused by the theft of lead flashing from St Bride's church, Llansantffraid.

The members of the church would like to thank the choristers of Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch (Boys of Coyrahen and District) for agreeing to provide the musical entertainment.

Carers Centre

BRIDGEND Carers Centre is located in 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (telephone 01656 658479).

On Monday, September 3 there will be the book Cwtch between 1pm-2pm, help is given by providing a book or poem with the opportunity to practice reading out aloud.

September 4, the Outreach group will be at Princess of Wales hospital between 9.30am and 12.30pm, and at Trinity church hall, Porthcawl, on September 6 between 10am and 1pm.

Carers are welcome to come along and discuss any problems they may have.

On September 5, the Community Café will be open at the centre between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

On September 6 and 20 between 1pm and 2pm, there will be an opportunity to enjoy light exercise in the 'Body Blitz'.

On September 8 there is a fund raising walk to raise money for Bridgend Carers Centre, Crossroads care and Trinity care and support, from the Hi Tide, Porthcawl, at 10.30am along the Promenade to Rest Bay lifeguard station. Participants are requested to register at 9.30am; £5, free to children.

Musical feast

THERE is an opportunity for the public to hear the winners of contestants in the Treorci Eisteddfod (including musicians and singers from Bridgend) on September 28.

The variety is amazing with Harvey David Rees (trumpet), Francesca May Rees (cello), Annabelle Rees (flute), all from Maesteg; and an adult vocal soloist from Porthcawl, Helen Victoria Davies.

There will also be a variety of choral music provided by Noteworthy a mixed voice choir from Maesteg, which was formed specifically to raise money for charity, Welsh National Eisteddfod competition winners twice in the last ten years, Bridgend male choir and Côr Ysgol Y Cymer Rhondda.

This outstanding concert will be at the Parc and Dare theatre, Treorchy, at 7pm.

Brackla Chorus

BRACKLA Community Chorus has recently raised £700 for cancer research at Velindre hospital, by organising a concert in the Bible church, Aberkenfig.

It has also performed in two concerts at residential homes Bryn Y Cae and Brocastle.

In between, it has put on a summer concert in Brackla Community Centre and on September 12 will be performing in the residential centre at the Rest, Porthcawl.

The choir rehearses at Brackla Community Centre on Wednesday evenings between 7pm and 9pm, to which visitors and new members are most welcome.

AM visits lifeguards during busy summer

REGIONAL AM Byron Davies has paid a visit to the lifeboat station at Porthcawl, to see how crews are coping with the busy summer season.

He was shown around the station by Porthcawl RNLI chairman John Abrahams who explained how the station is run.

Mr Davies was also shown the station's two lifeboats – they were given a second, smaller one earlier in the year.

The Shadow Welsh Minister for Transport and Regeneration said: "Between the two, the station now has all the tools at its disposal to do the very vital work that the volunteers perform throughout the year.

"The traditional miners' fortnight in July is still a very busy time in Porthcawl as is the whole of August. It's comforting to know that the brave and hard working volunteers who man the lifeboats and keep the station running are on hand to deal with any emergencies."

Mr Davies was shown the Atlantic Class 85 Rose of the Shires lifeboat, which has a crew of four and is known as Rosie.

The station's new boat is a smaller craft – a D class 714 which takes a crew of three.

Mr Abrahams explained that between the two boats, they can deal with most of the emergencies that crop up along the coast, especially on the cliff section at Southerndown.

He said: "People get trapped on ledges when the tide comes in and our big boat cannot get in close enough. We needed the second, smaller boat to get in close enough to rescue them.

"Thank goodness for mobile phones. People are able to raise the alarm themselves now and not rely on somebody hearing their cries."

Porthcawl has a pool of 24 trained lifeboat crew but they are controlled by an operations manager and his three deputies who say yes or no to a shout. The crews come in for training on Sundays and Wednesday evenings.

Mr Abrahams added: "We also have a very active fundraising committee and volunteers who man our shop. We have a very good team of people here in Porthcawl who are involved with the running of this station and in its funding."

Mr Davies AM concluded: "I am very impressed with what I have seen here and I want to thank everyone involved for the work they do in saving lives at sea."

Byron Davies AM pictured with John Abrahams, chairman of Porthcawl RNLI, and the second lifeboat which they have recently acquired.

WANTED: *a youth leader in Porthcawl*

ST JOHN Wales is looking for an adult volunteer willing to help run the charity's Porthcawl Cadet division.

The unpaid role of youth leader would suit an enthusiastic person, fully committed to helping the division's Cadets realise their full potential.

It involves a commitment to attending the Cadets weekly meetings and other occasional meetings to deal with admin work.

Damian Thomas, director of youth for St John Wales, said: "Our ultimate aim is to encourage our Cadets to develop into responsible citizens who really make a difference in their local communities. But it's not just about learning new skills – there's a lot of fun, friendship and adventure along the way!"

Applicants don't need to be existing members of the charity and neither do they need first aid skills as these will be taught as part of an ongoing training package.

St John Ambulance Cadets are aged between 11 and 18 and can choose from 70 different subjects to study as they work towards their Grand Prior award – the highest accolade a Cadet can achieve.

Older Cadets can use their first aid skills by supporting adult members in providing medical cover at public events and by training other young volunteers.

For more information, contact 02920 449536 or email youth@stjohnwales.org.uk

THE VIPs GATHER TO HONOUR ENYD

THE Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Mrs Kathryn Thomas, the Vice-Lord Lieutenant and about 20 Deputy Lieutenants of the county, gathered recently at Laleston to present Mrs Enyd Lock of Nantymoel with the insignia of the award of the British Empire Medal (BEM) announced in the Queen's Birthday Awards list in June.

In presenting the award, the Lord Lieutenant referred to Mrs Lock working tirelessly in the community of Nantymoel for nearly 50 years, setting up clubs for young people.

She worked to secure funding for clubs which now, as a result, have excellent facilities and a range of sporting equipment.

As well as producing sporting champions, the club has a successful dance group and rock band. The club has also helped older people by providing lunches for those not otherwise able to enjoy a hot meal.

The presentation was enthusiastically received by those present, who included Mrs Lock's close family, and Mrs Lock responded expressing her delight at this recognition.

Byron Butler

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL SEPTEMBER 6)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
30 Thur	06.11	9.3	18.35	9.7
31 Fri	07.00	9.5	19.17	10.0
01 Sat	07.37	9.7	19.58	10.1
02 Sun	08.14	9.8	20.33	10.0
03 Mon	08.51	9.9	21.06	9.8
04 Tues	09.21	9.7	21.38	9.6
05 Wed	09.52	9.3	22.11	9.2
06 Thur	10.21	9.2	22.41	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Get in touch and let us know what you think about local issues
gemeditorial@internet-today.co.uk

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£70,000 EARMARKED FOR MAJOR REPAIRS

Porthcawl's harbour light is set to go LED!

Rough seas have taken their toll on Porthcawl's harbour light.

A RECENTLY-ANNOUNCED refurbishment of Porthcawl's 19th Century lighthouse will be more than a lick of paint – as £70,000 has been allocated to do major structural work.

A recent inspection of the Grade II listed building revealed that the lantern section of the 150-year-old lighthouse was suffering from severe corrosion and nearing the end of its natural life.

As a result, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has obtained permission from Cadw and the Welsh Government to carry out a full renovation.

The project will seek to replace the corroded lantern housing, provide a new access ladder and platform for the navigation light and install a new £12,000 lamp at the top of the lighthouse.

The new lamp will be a low-energy LED device which will incorporate red, white and green lenses.

Located at the end of the breakwater wall near the harbour area, Porthcawl Lighthouse was the last in the UK to be powered by coal and gas – before it was converted to electricity in 1997.

The restoration will use tough, durable materials and paints to make sure that the works can withstand harsh marine weather conditions.

Deputy Leader David Sage said: "When finished, the renovation of Porthcawl's historic lighthouse will complement the ongoing Porthcawl Marina development to form a major part of BCBC's plans for the new harbourside area."

The work is scheduled to begin on September 10 and is expected to take up to 10 weeks to complete.

YOUNG WICK MAN GETS HELP – FROM HIS LOCAL CHARITY

NEW technology – and a Wick-based charity – have combined to help a disabled young man overcome a huge problem.

The Ed Evans Foundation, a local charity, has come forward to help Seth Jorgensen communicate with the outside world. by donating a specially-programmed I-Pad

Sol Jorgensen told The GEM why the device would make such a difference to her son, Seth.

She said: "My adult son cannot communicate verbally. He is bi-laterally deaf and we communicate a lot in Makaton, a sign language for those who also have a learning disablity.

"The sad thing is that most people in our community, and also those who help my son professionally, do not speak this specialist sign language.

"He has been left isolated since leaving his local school of Heronsbridge, where staff and students used the same sign language."

ABOVE: Seth Jorgensen with Sue Evans of the Ed Evans Foundation.

She continued: "This is not a unique experience. Lots of young adults leave school to live in a community which underestimates them because of their lack of verbal language.

"Seth has been through a trial with the electronic assistive technology service communication aid centre at Rookwood Hospital for the last six months.

"This trial has shown that he has the ability to communicate through the technology of the I-Pad, both physically and mentally. This is a great achievement, given his genetic condition."

Annette Penn, the lead speech and language therapist in augmentative and alternative communication at Rookwood, said: "It is clear, even from this short trial that Seth would benefit greatly from consistent access to a voice output aid of his own."

To enable this to happen, the Wick-based Ed Evans Foundation has stepped in to buy the I-Pad.

Sol said: "This is wonderful news. We cannot thank them enough. It will make such a difference to our daily life, and Seth's ability to communicate with others in his own way.

"It gives an independence otherwise denied to him."

Ed Evans was a young man from Wick, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2006. He started the foundation and worked to raise funds for Cancer Research Wales and brain tumour research.

Sadly, Ed died in October 2007, but since then his family and friends have continued his work. They also donate to local good causes.

On behalf of the foundation, Sue Evans said: "We are very pleased to support Seth, as it was always Ed's wish that his charity would help people in his local community."

Sol Jorgensen added: "The speech therapists and support staff at Rookwood Hospital do wonderful work, and this promises to make a big difference to Seth's life."

Greyhound Rescue aims to give Finlay a new lease of life

WHEN Finlay the greyhound was found on the side of the road in Bridgend. staggering in pain from a damaged leg, things did not look good for him.

Very often greyhounds with a broken or damaged limb are put to sleep straight away.

After being dropped off at a local vet by a member of the public, the diagnosis looked pretty grim for Finlay.

However, one of the veterinary nurses persuaded the vet to give the injured animal a stay of execution, while she contacted Greyhound Rescue Wales.

The Welsh greyhound charity agreed to help Finlay and contacted TV vet and canine orthopaedic specialist, Gareth Field, of St James' Vets in Swansea, who agreed to take the case on.

It was a difficult procedure and required fixing a large metal plate into Finlay's leg, as well as taking a bone graft from his shoulder.

The operation was only made possible because of money raised through a sponsored event – the Last Hope Walk – organised by Greyhound Rescue Wales.

The annual event is held in memory of "Last Hope" a greyhound that was found mutilated and left for dead on the side of Fochriw Mountain in May 2004.

Everyone's fingers are crossed for Finlay. The most difficult part of the operation was getting enough skin to cover the plate and swollen wound site.

If this heals, as Gareth hopes, Finlay's prospects are very good.

ABOVE: Finlay with vet Gareth Fields

However, for the next few weeks Finlay will need lots of TLC as the wound heals.

He is now being cared for by Greyhound Rescue Wales member, Sian Edwards; however, Finlay will need a permanent home when he recovers.

Finlay is a tall boy and seems to get on well with other dogs.

He appears to be house trained and was happy to be transported in a car.

If you think you could give a good home to Finlay, when he has fully recovered, or one of the many other greyhounds and lurchers currently in the care of Greyhound Rescue Wales, please call their helpline on 0300 0123 999, or visit their web site www.greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk

JON TREW

St Clare's head delighted with GCSE results

ST CLARE'S Independent School in Porthcawl was celebrating after the announcement of outstanding GCSE results.

A week after excellent A-Level results were announced, pupils from St Clare's achieved exemplary results, with 100 per cent of pupils gaining six or more GCSE pass grades at A*-C, with 50 per cent of the overall grades at A*/A.

Amongst the key achievers were: Elin Gush who gained 10 A*'s; Lowri Burridge (seven A*s and 3 As); Jack Holt (four A*'s and six A's); Rachel Pitt (six A*s and four As); and Sian Walker (10 As).

The head of St Clare's, John Aguilar, commented: "Our GCSE results this year have been fantastic and I want to congratulate all of the pupils who have studied extremely diligently for their exams. These results reflect all of their hard work over the last two years and will provide a strong platform for the next stage in their education."

ELIN GUSH.

Laleston WI news

ALTHOUGH there was no monthly meeting in August, Laleston members still came together on a number of occasions:

These included a summer outing to Mumbles, followed by afternoon tea at Oxwich Bay Hotel; book club meeting; car boot sale; the usual WI stall at the St David's fete; theatre visit to Cardiff to see *Sister Act*; and the Glamorgan Show at Cornelly.

The next meeting will be on September 6 and, as usual, will be the harvest auction.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at Laleston Gardening Club at 7.15pm. **JR**

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PORTHCAWL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CELEBRATES MORE GCSE SUCCESSES

ABOVE: Emma Curtis and Jess Cunoly.

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT

STAFF and pupils in Porthcawl Comprehensive School were celebrating last week after the GCSE results were announced.

Pupils in the year-11 group sat 2,446 examinations and achieved a total of 534 top grade passes (21.8 per cent) at A* or A.

A total of 26 students gained eight or more GCSEs at the top grades of A and A*, and many students achieved 10, 11 or 12 GCSEs.

The number of pupils gaining five or more GCSE awards at Grade A*–C was 75 per cent.

Of the total number of examinations entered, almost 100 per cent (99.82 per cent) resulted in A*–G grades with all pupils leaving school with a qualification.

The key feature was the performance of pupils in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science. These subjects contributed 257 A*or A grades to the school's figures.

Mr Kenny Dykes, headteacher said: "All associated with the school are delighted with the record achievements of pupils. Students fully deserve these rewards for their hard work and study.

"Back in 2009, we set an all time record when our students smashed the 70 percent barrier for the percentage of students gaining five or more GCSEs at A*–C.

"Under the current climate, with results declining nationally, the school is delighted to maintain this position with a figure in the high 70s.

"We were particularly heartened to see many of our pupils with additional learning needs gaining an impressive range of awards as a result of their hard work.

"The outstanding results of all of our pupils do not happen by chance. They are the consequence of sheer grit and determination.

"Congratulations to all!"

Pupils gaining eight or more GCSEs at A*/A:

Jennifer Sham (10A*, 1A and a distinction); Anna Bonet (10A* and a distinction); Madeleine Williamson-Sarll (9A* and one A merit); Rachel Battrick (7A*, 4A and a B distinction); Lucy Pugh-Bevan (7A *, 3As, 1B); Thomas Hunt (6A*, 4A, and a B distinction); Katie Burnett (6A*, 4A, and a distinction); Sarah Kavanagh (6A*, 3A, 2B); Tara Evans (5A*, 6A); Thomas Allen (5A* 6A); Shannon Rock (5A* 4A 3B); Julie Bold (5A* 4A 2B); Emma Jenkins (5A* 4A 1B);
Yuri Roberts (4A* 6A 1B); Paige Vincent (4A* 5A 1B 1C); James Phillips (4A* 4A 3B); Ross Jenkins (4A* 4A 2B 1C); Rhiannon Bevan (4A* 4A 1B 1C);
Eleri Connick (3A* 7A 1B); Hope Dabernig (3A* 7A); Sebin Baiju (3A* 6A 2B); Georgia Shallish (3A* 5A 2B); Amelia Walters (2A* 7A 1B); Eve Lewis (1A* 8A 2B); Salmaan Azam (1A* 7A 2B 2C); Megan Tucker (1A* 7A 1B).

ABOVE: Katie Sheppard.

ABOVE: Nathan Williams.

Laura Markey and her mum.

Anna Bonet.

Erin Shurmer and Sadia Naughton.

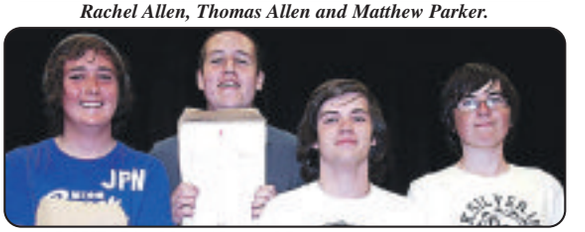
Connor John, Simon Hogarth, Lewis Simpson, Harry Wragg.

Emma Harding, Lia Jones, and Zoe Windos.

ABOVE: A delighted Ollie Banner.

Rachel Allen, Thomas Allen and Matthew Parker.

Holly Short and Lauren Jones.



ABOVE: Ria, Matt, Alex and Dan.

Chloe Evans and mum, and Abbie Jones.

ABOVE: Katie Webb and her mum.

BELOW: Sadie Jones.

THE PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CELEBRATES 'BEST-EVER' GCSE RESULTS

AT PENCOED Comprehensive School, there was delight at the best-ever GCSE results.

In particular, there was jubilation about huge improvements in maths and English.

The school's headteacher, David George, told The GEM that, with the national GCSE results picture quite static, this year's results showed a really significant improvement.

He said: "These are our best GCSE results by a mile.

"This year, 84 per cent of the students gained five GCSEs at grades A* to C – up from 59 per cent.

"What's more, if you look at those students, 58 per cent passed both maths and English, up from 45 per cent, and we have never been in the 50s before."

When it came to pass grades (A*–G), 96 per cent of pupils passed.

He added that getting involved with the Welsh Baccalaureatte had been good for the pupils too.

He said: "Pupils who gained the Welsh Bacc qualification now have something on their CV that is worth four extra GCSEs at grade B."

The school's new head of maths, Kath Pope, could not stop smiling, and said she 'couldn't believe" how good the maths results were.

A number of students had nothing but A*s and As, and all also gained their Welsh Bacc qualification.

They were: Caitlin Davies (10A*s and three As); Jessica Davies (nine A*s and four As); Katy Figg (12 A*s and one A); India Harding (nine A*s and four As); Megan Maunder (10 A*s and three As); and Chloe Thompson (eight A*s and five As).

A-Levels

Mr George concluded: "These excellent results have followed on from very good A-Level performances last week.

"A quarter (25 per cent) of all grades awarded were at A* or A grade. Over seven out of 10 grades (72 per cent) were awarded at C grade or above and 96 per cent of grades awarded were pass grades."

Many students achieved excellent personal results, including:

Ross Bowen – A* (mathematics) , A (further mathematics), A (physics), A (Welsh Bacc).

Bethan Rees – A (chemistry), A (mathematics), A (physics), A (Welsh Bacc), B (further mathematics).

Fay Hawkins – A (art and design), A (geography), A (Welsh Bacc), C (chemistry).

Charmaine Miers – A (biology), A (religious studies), A (Welsh Bacc), C (chemistry).

Aaron Wall – A (biology) A (Welsh Bacc), B (chemistry), B (mathematics).

James Burnett – A (design technology), A (Welsh Bacc), B (ICT), C (computing).

Molly Ann Jones – A (religious studies), A (Welsh Bacc), B (drama), E (biology).

Mr George said: "Many congratulations to all students. These excellent results were the culmination of two years of hard work and reflect outstanding effort from the students and from their teachers.

"The vast majority of students have been successful in gaining entry to university courses. We wish every student well for an exciting future."

Bridgend and District Quiz League's 40 not out

WHEN young Litchard schoolmaster Jeff North first organised a few Bridgend quiz teams into the first Bridgend Quiz League in the early 1970s, he could not have envisaged that the league he founded would still be going strongly almost 40 years later, making it one of the longest, continuous running quizzes in the country.

In those early days, the league consisted of just eight teams, mainly situated in Bridgend town centre itself, quickly joined by two further teams from Bridgend Rugby Club.

Jeff compiled the quiz questions, delivered them and collected the results, sometimes visiting all the venues in a single evening because of their close proximity.

Initially, it had a strong sporting element and the competition was extremely fierce, the inaugural champions being the sadly now defunct Glanrhyd Social Club.

In the 1980s, the quiz proved so popular that it had expanded to three divisions – although it now boasts just two. In addition, a knockout competition was introduced together with the annual Muriel Williams Cup, named in honour of a former councillor and mayor of Bridgend.

Although the league attracts several serious quizzers – for example, the 2008 Mastermind champion Dave Clark – it also has many less serious enthusiasts who enjoy the competition with like-minded people.

The only criterion for entry to the league is that the venue has to lie within a radius of 10 miles of Bridgend town centre. Matches are organised on a home and away basis with four members in each team, the home side supplying someone to read the questions.

As part of the 40th anniversary celebrations, Mark 'The Beast' Labbett, popular star of ITV's 'The Chase', is the guest speaker at the Muriel Williams quiz. The registration evening is at Tondu Railway Club on Monday, September 3 at 8pm.

The quiz is open to all and there's a free buffet. Mark, who is presenting the prizes, is also taking part, giving local quizzers the rare opportunity of pitting their wits against this larger than life celebrity!

Further information about this quiz evening or how to join the league can be found at: www.bridgendquiz.com.

ANDREA KINGSCOTT
(Vice-chairman, Bridgend and District Quiz League)

Country fayre helps charity

OVER the Bank Holiday weekend, Dexters Farm at Felindre Mill, Pencoed, hosted a craft and country fayre which included arts, craft stalls, gifts, local produce, flowers and preserves, live music and a display of working vintage agricultural machinery provided by the Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society.

The event was held in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Reseach, a charity which funds development of groundbreaking treatment and cures for all blood cancers

Dexters would like to thank all those who attended the two-day event and contributed generously towards the final total of £812; and also to those who gave their time and services – which made the fayre such a success.

Geraint Williams

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TRIBUTES PAID TO CHARITY FOUNDER

Lucy Dickenson – 'a joy and an inspiration to all those who knew her'

by TIM CHAPMAN

ABOVE: Lucy Dickenson and her sister Hannah performing at Barry Waterfront in 2009.

"Inspirational" charity worker Lucy Dickenson, who founded a charity and devoted her life to helping people across the globe, died last week in a car crash in Zambia.

Lucy who lived in Barry, was just 32 years old, but in her short life had left a legacy that will continue for many years to come.

She founded the SAFE Foundation in 2007 to help provide grants and materials to relieve poverty in developing countries.

From her experience of working in countries such as Uganda, Rwanda and Mongolia, she had discovered that remote or small projects had difficulty getting mainstream aid – that was where the foundation, which she ran with twin sister Hannah, stepped in.

SAFE Foundation projects are on-going in a number of countries including Uganda, Cambodia, India, Ghana and the UK.

The staff of the Safe Foundation issued a statement late last week on its website which read:

"It is with such deep sorrow that we have to share the terrible news of Lucy's passing following a car accident in Zambia on Monday, August 20.

"We want to say thank you to everyone for showing their love for Lucy and giving their support to the Dickenson family.

"The SAFE Foundation is one of the legacies Lucy has left behind.

"Hannah and we will strive to continue the wonderful work in her honour.

"We will update with details of the funeral for anyone wishing to come to pay their respects and to celebrate Lucy's incredible life.

"She will be so very greatly missed by us all..."

In her many journeys throughout the world, compassion for the people she met was foremost in her mind, as Professor Stephen Tomlinson, the chairman of Vale for Africa, told The GEM: "Lucy and the SAFE Foundation worked together with Vale for Africa as partners.

"Lucy was a trustee of Vale for Africa and I have known her from the beginning of our partnership four years ago.

"She was a joy; she brightened up any room she entered.

"She was truly inspirational and cared deeply for the poor, the sick and the disadvantaged,especially children in Africa and Asia.

"She died while helping those in most desperate need in Zambia.

"However, I shall remember her as she was – very special, giving me a huge, delighted, happy hug at the annual Goldstar Awards Ceremony just a month ago, after we had both received commendations on behalf of our charities,the SAFE Foundation and Vale for Africa."

Professor Tomlinson added: "Lucy's legacy is our responsibility.

"We should celebrate her life and achievements and must ensure her work continues."

Lucy's interests included music – she and Hannah performed as the band Amber Hour – dance, history and walking.

But it is as an inexhaustible campaigner against world poverty that she will be remembered, not only in Barry, and Cardiff where the SAFE Foundation is based, but across the developing world.

For information on the SAFE Foundation, please go to: www.thesafefoundation.co.uk

GCSE: 'TIRELESS WORK' PAYS OFF

Head points to 'improvement in all key indicators' at Brynteg

ABOVE (left to right): Brynteg students Mathew Jones, Byoung-in Min, Joseph Smith, Celyn Ripley and Lucy Davis.

STAFF at Brynteg Comprehensive School were "pleased" with this year's GCSE results, which saw 73 per cent of pupils get at least five passes between grades A* and C.

The school's headteacher, David Jenkins, told The GEM that he was pleased that 52 per cent of pupils had passed in English and maths.

The percentage of pupils who passed five GCSEs with grades between A* and G was 94 per cent.

Star students were:

Lucy Davis (eight A*s and two As); Omar Airawi (11 A*s and one A): Mathew Jones (11 A*s and one A); Elin Strachan (10A*s and two As); Danielle John (eight A*s and two As); Joseph Smith (eight A*s and three As); Byoung-in Min (nine A*s and three As); and Celyn Ripley (four A*s and five As).

Mr Jenkins said: "Staff and pupils have worked tirelessly throughout the year and are to be congratulated on their achievements.

"We are delighted that, as a result of a great deal of hard work, in addition to the excellent support we receive from parents, we have seen improvements in all the key indicators.

"A significant number of pupils have achieved exceptional results and deserve special praise."

Popular fair caught out by wet summer

THE organisers of the St Mary Hill Fair say that it was a "huge disappointment" that it became another victim of the wet summer.

The decision was taken last Thursday (August 23) when a representative of the traders inspected the common near Pencoed, and said that it was too wet.

It had been scheduled to go ahead on Bank Holiday Monday (August 27).

Lyn Wood, the fair administrator for the Coity Wallia Board of Conservators: "Told The GEM: "Even if the forecast had been for good weather, it would still have had to be called off.

"As it was, more rain was on the way. It was a shame, because last year's event raised £3,000 for Macmillan nurses, and we hoped to make a similar amount for charity this year.

"Ironically, this year I had great support from local businesses who put up posters, and then I had to go round and write 'cancelled' on them all.

"I was quite surprised by the number of people who said that they had been planning to go, and who were really disappointed!

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MAN WHO BROUGHT THE OLYMPIC NEWS TO US ALL!

by PHILIP IRWIN

A local man is taking a well-earned rest after spending the Olympics working with a Cardiff-based company that was an integral part of the BBC coverage of the Games.

Ian Ball, from Llantwit Major works freelance for Goleudy, a company based in Culverhouse Cross, and which won the contract to provide and operate all the technical equipment used when the BBC set up its nerve centre in a tower block just outside the Olympic village.

It meant that Goleudy was one Welsh company that managed to benefit from the Olympics, and the bulk of the company's staff were from south Wales, including Llantwit Major and Bridgend.

The BBC chose the tower block for its views of the Olympic park, and for Ian and his work colleagues, that was as near as they got!

Ian said: "It was a very intensive few weeks, and we didn't get the chance to spend time in the park. Passes were like gold dust

"There were so many people in the park. In the morning, we would see a huge queue form outside MacDonalds at 7.30am, and it would last all day!

"However, medal winners and other people in the news came to the news centre, so we had the chance to meet quite a few.

"For my work colleagues and I, it was a greatr experience at an unforgettable event that I will never see in this country again in my lifetime."

In his time with the company, Ian has done a variety of outside broadcast work – including the State Opening of Parliament!

It is a career progression that Ian did not foresee when he took a course in Bridgend College more than 10 years ago.

However, he threw himself into training for his new career, even working nights at the Jane Hodge Home near Cowbridge to support himself while he studied.

Since then, as his Olympics' experience proves, he never knows what he might be doing in a few months time.

In the shorter term, of course, he does know what is in the pipeline and now, after recharging his batteries and recovering from the long hours worked at the Olympics, he is preparing for a different kind of sporting event – the annual political party conferences!

ABOVE: Technician Suzanne Sanders from Bridgend meets Dizzee Rascal!

ABOVE: Ian Ball with Olympic cycling gold medallist Jo Rowsell.

ABOVE: Ian Ball with Jamie Lynn Grey, the USA gold medallist in three-position rifle shooting.

CATS ADOPTION CENTRE SENDS AN SOS!

'Please help us cope with our waiting list'

THE pressure is mounting on the Cats Adoption Centre at Bryncethin.

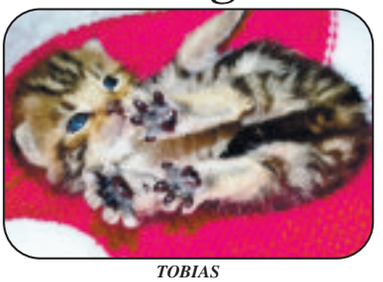
This year has been one of the busiest years with unwanted cats and kittens. We currently have over 1,000 waiting to bring cats and kittens into the centre for rehoming, we are in the process of partially closing the waiting list to adult cats as this is the number of cats we normally rehome in a year.

This is the first time we have had to take this measure since I first started managing the Adoption Centre 14 years ago.

This year, to date we have taken in 752 cats and kittens, 72 of whom were found abandoned or dumped in boxes, and many of them have needed urgent veterinary treatment.

We have experienced a 27 per cent fall in the number of cats finding new homes during May, June and July and this is the largest drop for over 10 years.

We have over 20 long stay cats and kittens in the centre, many of whom have been with us for over four months. Some of them are kittens born in the centre – this is heart breaking and difficult for the team at the centre.



TOBIAS

STANLEY

JAMILLA

IMOGEN

MAE

PRINCE

JAMILLA'S KITTENS

PEDRO (WITH PRINCE)

OLYMPIC AND TORCH, Olympia's kittens

TOBIAS AND TERRENCE

Home seekers:

TOBIAS and Terrence were found abandoned in a box in a lane in Bridgend.

They were only three weeks old; far too young to be away from mum. They soaking wet and starving hungry. They were so content after their first bottle feed, they just curled up and slept on the CCA's arm who was feeding them.

JAMILLA was dumped in a carrier in lane not far from the centre.

She was only seven months old, heavily pregnant. She was very distressed at the time and covered in her own excrement, she gave birth a few days later to three beautiful ginger kittens, Jamilla and her kittens are all ready for homing.

PRINCE and Pedro – four months old, these beautiful kittens were born in the centre and are two of our longest staying kittens, they are becoming increasingly with drawn and are desperate to find their forever homes.

STANLEY was found living outside as a six-week-old kitten. He had little human contact and was very frightened. He has spent some time with one of our kitten fosterers and is now more confident around people, he has been in the centre since April.

IMOGEN was admitted to centre as a young kitten with her mum and litter mates when she was three weeks old. She is part of litter of three kittens all waiting to find their forever homes.

MAE, a five-year-old female, is one of our longest staying cats. She has been in the centre for more than six months. She is a little sweetheart, very loving and friendly, truly deserving of a new home.

Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ. Telephone 01656 726621, fax 01656 722012 or email bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk

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There were small dogs... and there were big dogs!

The fancy dress dog competition.

PHOTOGRAPHS
by **ANDY WICKS**
Telephone 07855 374478

BRIDGEND County Riding for the Disabled Association held its annual dog show on Sunday, August 19.

GEM photographer Andy Wicks captured the doting owners with their dogs!

The event took place at Pencoed College and there were classes including 'Best Dog', 'Best Bitch', 'Best Fancy Dress Dog' and 'Dog with the Waggiest Tail'.

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BRIDGEND'S YOUTH THEATRE JOINS UP WITH NEW PARTNER

ABOVE: The Bridgend Youth Theatre juniors in their recent production of 'Honk'.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) has announced that it will be working in partnership with It's My Shout productions from Monday, September 3, to run the award-winning Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT).

The aim is to further develop the BYT, which has established itself as a rich source of young talent, and create further opportunities for young people to develop their skills in the performing arts sector.

It's My Shout grew out of the BYT, and started by producing a series of short films over the summer holidays for ITV, before moving to the BBC.

Roger Burnell is the director of both the BYT and It's My Shout, and he told The GEM that It's My Shout was now funded by a number of bodies, and had expanded to include technical training.

Coun Lyn Morgan, the cabinet member for well-being said: "I am delighted that the council will be working in partnership with It's My Shout, the BBC and the Arts Council of Wales to continue to develop opportunities for young people in the area.

"The youth theatre already has more than 300 members and this exciting development will allow us to expand the provision available through more varied workshops, as well as attract more young people from the county borough."

A spokesman said: "The youth theatre welcomes all committed young individuals to the group, with no interviews or auditions on enrolment.

"It will continue to provide young people with the opportunity to develop their skills both on stage and behind the scenes, putting on at least two major high-quality performances every year at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

"In addition, It's My Shout will provide workshops using its vast network of industry professionals. Workshops will include circus skills, mask making, stage combat, acting for screen and much more.

"There is an exciting set of productions to come, including The Who's *Tommy; The Rock Opera* and Disney's *Alice in Wonderland*."

BYT is now well established as a hot-bed for Welsh talent, having discovered the likes of Aneurin Barnard (star of *Hunky Dory, Ironclad* and currently filming in Hollywood), Amy Morgan (currently starring in *Hay Fever* in the West End) and James Morgan (currently featuring in the BBC's *Indian Doctor*), to name but a few.

Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones said of It's My Shout: "It is exciting to see an already successful local organisation further expand its activities to provide more opportunities for young people in Bridgend to benefit from engaging with performance arts."

Ben McGregor, a former BYT member (recently in Channel 4's *Fresh Meat*) said: "It's My Shout has inspired me to believe that I could better myself and have a real chance to succeed in a competitive industry.

"I think it gave me the edge and the head start I needed."

Roger Burnell said: "The team are looking forward to getting started and welcoming more children and young people to build their skills and, most importantly, have fun at Bridgend Youth Theatre."

To join the BYT, or for more information, contact the box office at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on 01656 815995 (option one).

MP thanks GEM for backing family's funding campaign

Two weeks ago, Lyn and Nancy's charity raising runs looked in danger, but following an intervention by local MP Alun Cairns, and publicity in The GEM race organisers have reached an accommodation with Lyn.

Dad, daughter *(and buggy)* are on the road again!

CARDIFF race organisers, who had 'health and safety' concerns about a Llantwit Major dad running with his daughter in a buggy, have had a rethink.

Lyn Thomas raises money for the CF Trust on fun runs, and takes along 18-month-old Nancy, who has cystic fibrosis, to inspire her to run in the future and for the health benefits it provides.

Two weeks ago, The GEM reported how Lyn and Nancy had already completed the TATA Cardiff Bay Run earlier in the year without any mishap, but the organisers of 10k events in Cardiff and Swansea said they had safety concerns.

Vale MP, Alun Cairns has thanked The GEM for helping to publicise Lyn and Nancy's frustration which has now ended in them being able to continue their charity raising efforts.

Organisers of the Cardiff 10k and the Cardiff Half Marathon have said 'dad, daughter and buggy' are welcome!

Lyn said: "I wanted to thank The GEM for being so supportive of my campaign to be able to take part with Nancy in these local fun runs and races across south Wales."

The solution has been for Lyn to start near the front of the field, so he isn't having to negotiate a route with the buggy through the larger number of slower runners.

He explained: "I've now been accepted for both Cardiff races and will be able to discuss my starting position with them, so that it falls in line with my run times.

"It means that I won't have to try and steer Nancy and the buggy around the slower runners. That could, of course, have been considered a risk.

"Exercise is not just important for Nancy, it is imperative to keep her lungs healthy, and may prevent her needing a lung transplant at a relatively young age and extend her life.

"I am determined to give her every opportunity to enjoy running, first as passenger and hopefully as a runner when she is a little older."

And there has been even more good news for Lyn.

"I've also had six other people from Llantwit Major contact me, asking if they can join the 'Running with Nancy' team – which is fantastic and will help raise even more money for the CF Trust."

Lyn is now hoping that an agreement can be struck with the organisers of the 10k race in Swansea. The Vale MP, Alun Cairns had taken the matter up with race organisers himself.

Mr Cairns pointed out: "While running last year's London Marathon, I was overtaken regularly by many people dressed in the most elaborate costumes.

"Some people were chained together and others were running in tandem. It is difficult to believe that someone pushing a buggy, is such a health and safety threat."

Mr Cairns said restricting Lyn and Nancy's runs at a time when the Olympics and Paralympics were enthralling the nation, was hardly the best timing.

He added: "I was delighted to hear that both the Cardiff 10K and Cardiff Half Marathon organisers are now happy to accommodate the request for Lyn and Nancy to run with a buggy in their events this autumn.

"Lyn is determined to share the enjoyment of running with Nancy to help alleviate some of the symptoms of her condition, and to raise money for charity and help change attitudes towards cystic fibrosis."

TIM CHAPMAN

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WOMAN JAILED FOR 15 MONTHS

Burglar feels remorse after stealing from elderly couple

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A BURGLAR who raided a house in Bridgend became so remorseful when she learnt that the victims were an elderly couple, that she immediately admitted the crime.

Tammy Jones, 29, told the police: "This burglary has bothered me because of the age of the people. I'm admitting this because they are old."

At Cardiff Crown Court, Jones, of Heol Dwyrain, Bridgend, was jailed for 15 months.

Jones had admitted a charge of burglary before Vale Magistrates and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Judge Eleri Rees said the burglary had "knocked the couple's confidence" and only one sentence was appropriate.

Prosecutor Sal Salman said that on the afternoon of June 1, the couple, aged 88 and 89, were in the garden of their three-bedroomed, semi-detached bungalow, when Jones broke in by smashing a glass panel, and opening the front door.

She stole a purse, £120, bank cards, a gold chain, two gold rings, and keys.

"The victims were sitting outside, totally oblivious of what was happening," said Mr Salman.

After the burglary, Jones made three attempts to withdraw cash using the bank cards.

When she was arrested, she said she had been taking Valium at the time, and sold the rings to a pawn broker in Cardiff for £60.

The locks on all the doors of the property had to be changed.

In a statement, the 89-year-old woman said that what occurred was frightening, and she was lucky not to have confronted the burglar.

She said she had difficulty sleeping and was on edge most of the time.

She added that her husband suffered from Parkinson's Disease, and she hoped the court would deal appropriately with the defendant.

The court heard that at the time, Jones was on bail for shoplifting.

Her counsel, Jennett Treharne, said she had committed burglaries in the past as a juvenile.

Her background was very sad, and she began abusing drugs at a young age.

"She is now at a crossroads. At the time, she was taking heroin, but no longer craves drugs.

"She was devastated and ashamed when she found out that the occupiers were elderly people," she said.

Firefighters win a prestigious rescue challenge

THE South Wales Fire and Rescue Service's Bridgend Extrication Team beat off stiff competition to make a clean sweep in a prestigious National Rescue Challenge, hosted by Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

The national rescue event saw teams from 40 fire and rescue services across the country, compete in a series of simulated rescues designed to test their skills to the limit.

Over the two days, the teams were challenged to save casualties in a range of mock incidents, as members of the public watched all the action.

The main challenge involved 50 teams competing to rescue one casualty from a car crash scenario in 20 minutes – and then two casualties from a car crash in 30 minutes.

A number of obstacles such as other vehicles, lamp posts and concrete blocks, were incorporated into the scenario to make the rescue even more challenging. It was the first time all three elements in the challenge were won by an individual team, and it is the second time in seven years that the Bridgend team has been crowned UK champions.

Allyn Hosey, Phil May and Andrew Morgan won best technical extrication team.

Roger Magan and Mark Sanderson were awarded best medical extrication team, and Shaun Moody was presented with best team leader.

Station manager Shaun Moody said: "It was a total team performance – the extrication scenarios are the kind of situations that firefighters are likely to come across in their day-to-day role, so training for those situations is a regular part of what we do.

"The team is very enthusiastic and we have put in a lot of extra practice to perfect our skills, so we can proudly fly the flag for Wales."

The rope rescue team from Malpas Fire and Technical Rescue Unit were also crowned UK champions.

Coun Tudor Davies, chairman of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, said:

"I would like to pass on my sincere congratulations to both the road traffic collision and rope rescue teams, for their excellent achievements.

"First in both competitions is a fantastic achievement."

Activities at the Berwyn Centre

THIS autumn, the council-run Berwyn Centre has a programme of new (and old) activities.

Nantymoel Cycling Club meet every Monday at the centre, 5pm-6pm, to arrange weekly local rides.

Men's circuits class each Tuesday from 7pm-8pm, £2.50 per person; 12-week 'Eat Well Weight Loss' course. Enrol on September 5, 1.30pm-2.30pm for £4 per session.

READY FOR SANTA...

Morgan (six) earns place on sleigh parade

SIX-year-old Morgan Jones, from Bryncethin, has won the NFU Mutual Bridgend & The Vale prize draw for a place on Santa's sleigh at the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade.

The draw was made in the NFU stand at the Vale Show, as they are the main sponsors of the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade, held this year on Sunday, November 25.

Morgan, whose family farm is at Brocastle, Bridgend, and who goes to Pencoed Primary School, couldn't wait to tell all his friends and family, especially his best friend, Iwan.

The picture (***above***) shows Morgan being presented with his 'reindeer' at the NFU office, by David Harris, group secretary of the Kelly & Harris Agency.

PAM HARRIS

The co-operative pharmacy

is giving you the chance to **WIN** a fantastic L'Oreal gift set worth over £50!

To celebrate the fantastic make-over that has taken place at our Llantwit Major branch, we're giving 10 lucky readers the chance to WIN a L'Oreal gift set containing six fabulous must-have items for men and women.

The new-look branch based on Boverton Road has been refurbished to give a more customer-friendly interior design which means the pharmacy is brighter and feels more spacious. Now providing customers with a pleasant environment to shop in and get health advice and prescriptions.

There are also some big deals providing customers with great value on a range of big brand products and toiletry essentials.

In addition, the pharmacy offers a FREE* repeat prescription collection and delivery service, along with a consultation room which ensures our pharmacists can deal with health queries discreetly.

To enter the competition to WIN these great prizes just fill in your details…

Complete attached coupon by and post your entry by September 7th, to:
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Vale Show organisers are praised by the local AM

Jane Hutt AM with the Royal British Legion

Jane Hutt AM meets NFU representatives.

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, has hailed last week's Vale Show as a 'great success' and congratulated the organisers and volunteers who made it such a great event.

She commented: "With the sun shining on Fonmon, we knew the Vale Show would be a great success, but it was the preparation and organisation of all the events, displays, exhibitions and stalls that made it such a tremendous day which was enjoyed by all those who attended.

"The Vale Show is an important event in the calendar and it is better every year. Congratulations to all those who played their part in 2012!"

Mayor of Penarth takes in Vale Show

THE Mayor of Penarth, Coun Philip Rapier, was among those who spent the day at the Vale Show in Fonmon Castle, where he mingledwith the public and time indulging in some fowl play at the poultry exhibits, as the photograph (above) shows!

Bridge winners

Jane Brook and Huw Thomas, winners of the recent East Wales Bridge Association claret jug.

LATEST results from Barrivale: 1st. Mike Close and Mick Green 63.33 per cent; 2nd. Eileen Hughes and Carol James 55 per cent; 3rd. Ann Macdougall and Sean Macdougall 53.75 per cent. Ann and Sean won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join, telephone 01446 733425 or 01446 418380 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Friends and Neighbours are reminded of heydays

AS part of Friends and Neighbours' active programme, more than 30 members of the group attended the matinee performance of Fame JR at Barry Memorial Hall by Superstars in the Making.

The group had a very entertaining afternoon.

They clapped along to every popular Fame song, and it reminded them of their heydays.

They loved the colourful costumes and the excellent set design, especially the yellow taxi that took its place for the grand finale.

Many of the members remarked it was of West End standard, and for many of the members it was their first experience of a live musical.

Gay Fifield

Cowbridge welcomes top local and global talent for third annual music festival

SEPTEMBER 14 sees the opening of the 2012 Cowbridge Music Festival, with audiences set to fill Holy Cross Church for world class performances by local and international artists.

The festival begins with top string players from across Europe. Members of the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra of Europe present two hallmark works: the turbulently passionate '*Souvenir de Florence*' by Tchaikovsky, and the richly lyrical '*String Sextet in B flat*' by Brahms.

On Saturday 15, musicians from Bulgaria, Germany and Switzerland, '*Tri i Dve*', will raise the roof of the town hall with a free concert in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research (donations invited).

The group's unique sound combines Western classical elegance with the rich colours and exuberant rhythms of Hungarian and Balkan folk music.

Three outstanding young musicians – Cowbridge violinist Charlie MacClure, Atlantic College pianist Emma Woo, and harpist Benjamin Creighton Griffiths, open the festival's second weekend, presenting a wide variety of solo pieces in this showcase for local talent.

For lovers of early music, the celebrated Welsh soprano Elin Manahan Thomas and lutanist David Miller perform Elizabethan songs on Saturday 22.

Festival director Mary Elliot said: "In the past we've had quite a few requests from audiences for Baroque music, so we're delighted to be able to respond with a tailored programme."

Violinist Felix Froschhammer. *Photo by Tashko Tasheff.*

Friday 28 is movie night, as CMF and Big Screen Cinema collaborate once again to present comic masterpieces by Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin, with Swiss pianist Lucas Buclin returning to provide his captivating improvised accompaniment.

Last year's silent movie evening welcomed a sold-out crowd, with film lovers aged three to 83 sharing laughter and, of course, ice-cream.

Eminent Welsh pianist Llyr Williams brings the programme to a close on Saturday 29, with a recital of some of the greatest works for piano by Schubert, Brahms and Chopin.

Founded in 2010 with a grant from Creative Rural Communities, the festival was awarded charitable status in 2011.

This year, it has received funding from the Arts Council of Wales, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and the Simon Gibson Charitable Trust, in addition to a second year of sponsorship from Cardiff Design.

Admission to all six concerts is free for children and students. The organisers are also proud to offer the lowest ticket prices of any international-standard festival.

Continuing a commitment to community outreach, the festival will include free performances in local schools and care homes. Events already confirmed are a strings concert for students of Cowbridge Comprehensive School and a miniature silent movie at Barry Island Primary School.

This year, CMF is also excited to work with artists from the Cardiff School of Art & Design (UWIC), who will create pieces of art inspired by the festival's music programme. Their work will be displayed at Cowbridge Library throughout September.

Tickets, including 'saver' festival passes, are on sale now from Xantippe on Cowbridge High Street, through PayPal on the website (see below), and from Ticket Source on 08448 700887.

Full programme information is available now at: www.cowbridgemusicfestival.co.uk

For behind-the-scenes extras, follow the festival on Facebook and Twitter: facebook.com/cowbridgemusicfestival, and twitter.com/cowbridgemusic.

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Free Heritage bus service for Barry's Tall Ship event

HERITAGE buses provided by The Bus Depot, Barry, will be used to provide a free half-hourly service this Saturday and Sunday during the Tall Ship event in Barry.

The buses, provided by the Cardiff Transport Conservation Group, will include former Caerphilly, Pontypridd or Bedwas & Machen council vehicles .

These will run between a Park & Ride site at the Council Dock Offices next to Barry Docks Railway Station to Morrisons; and along Broad Street to and from the Island, between 11am and 5pm on both days.

The Bus Depot will be open to the public during the event. The Tall Ships weekend in Barry, September 1-2, will see a number of ships moored in Barry Dock, including the Tall Ship 'Stavros S Niarchos'.

There will be various interest activities such as craft stalls, pirates and street entertainers.

The Barry Railway will offer steam rides and a collection of vintage cars will be at Hood Road.

There will also be a rock music concert featuring live music from a range of groups including Brother Steve, The Relics, Shooting the Moon and Too Toned on Saturday and Big Mac's Wholly Soul Band, Blues Central and Wonderbrass on Sunday.

Heritage buses will be available to chaufer visitors around the attractions at the Tall Ships festival in Barry this weekend.

Letters Extra

A GREAT WEEK FOR EISTEDFOD!

I WISH to express my thanks to Rosalind Lewis of Llantwit Major for her hard work as fundraising organiser for the Welsh National Eisteddfod in the Llantwit Major area over the past two years.

Ros volunteered for the role and put in a huge amount of work, and with a group of supporters, who need to be congratulated for their hard work, they raised just over £20,000, which was amazing during these very difficult economic times.

I was pleased that the Eisteddfod was an outstanding success in the Vale, and again my thanks to all the officers and staff of the Vale Council who worked exceptionally hard over a long period to make sure that the Vale welcomed the Eisteddfod.

Personally, after playing a part in setting up the idea of bringing the Eisteddfod to Llandow, I must thank all the landowners for their tremendous support in making the event such a great success.

Many visitors from all over Wales will remember their great week in the Vale and I am sure they will return in the future.

COUN GWYN JOHN, Llantwit Major

Custom bike show and fun-day for Ellie

A CUSTOM bike show and funday in aid of children's charity Latch is set to return to Morrisons in Cardiff Bay this Sunday (September 2) following a successful debut at the same store last year.

Most of the displays and events are returning for this years' event, including custom bikes, trikes and classics coming down on the day; police, fire service and army displays; vintage cars; a funfair; the play bus; the falconry UK team; various stalls, trade stands and refreshments; and a beauty tent where you can have your nails and hair done.

There will also be a vintage bus running every hour to the Tall Ships Festival at Barry Waterfront to take visitors between the two events.

A grand raffle is taking place with tickets still available up to and on the day.

The price of a ticket is only £1, and the draw will take place at 3.30pm on the day.

If any vintage car owners in the area wish to display on the day, call Roger Clarke at the Morrisons store in Cardiff Bay to get involved.

Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

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Out and About with The GEM

What's on, and where?

Clairvoyance

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church, Kenilworth Road, is holding an evening of clairvoyance with Daryl Jenkins on September 1 at 7pm.

Admission £5. Proceeds in aid of church renovations.

Stroke advice

AN adviser from the Stroke Association will provide advice on 'available support services'. The event is at Bethel Road Church Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, on Tuesday, September 4 from 10am-12 midday.

Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Flower arrangers

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club's next meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday, September 5 in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

Rob Wallace will give a demonstration entitled 'contemporary floristry'. A warm welcome awaits.

Bingo move

COMMUNITY Bingo run every Wednesday at 7pm, from the Children's Centre, Ramsey Road, Gibbonsdown, is relocating to the Colcot Community Centre from September 5 (6.30pm). New members of all ages welcome.

Autumn trip

LLANTWIT MAJOR Horticultural Society is organising an autumn trip to the Malvern Hills on October 7, including Picton Court garden and nursery, and the restored arts and crafts garden at Perrycroft. Contact Elizabeth Rees on 01446 750387. All welcome.

Childbirth Trust nearly new sale

A NEARLY new sale will be held at Barry Comprehensive School on Saturday, September 8, from 11am-12.30pm.

Entrance/suggested donation £1 per family; baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (eg. prams) and maternity wear. Sellers contact Julie on 01656 662564 to pre-register by Wednesday, September 5 (and for details of what can or can't be sold) or email nctnearlynewsales@live.co.uk.

Donations, cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received. Proceeds in aid of The National Childbirth Trust Vale and Valleys branch.

It is raising funds to train three breastfeeding counsellors and two antenatal teachers.

Donations are welcome by going to the following website at: *www.nct.org.uk/in-your-area/southwales.*

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Where is it? **Atlantic College**, St Donat's Castle, Llantwit Major, CF61 1WF.

How do I sign up? Just call Lorraine on **01446 799000** to express your interest.

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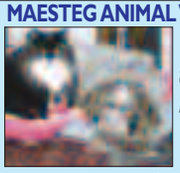

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OSCARS in Cardiff and Cowbridge have won inclusion in the Good Food Guide 2013.

The prestigious guide features the best restaurants, pubs and cafes throughout the UK and this is the first year that Cardiff restaurants have been included:

"We are thrilled to be one of the first restaurants in Cardiff to be associated with the high status and quality that the Good Food Guide boasts, said Leigh Foreman, of the Town and Country Hotels' group.

"Three restaurants from the Cardiff area have been included, and it's an honour to have helped put Cardiff firmly on the culinary map – where it should have been a long time ago!"

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Varied music line-up for Tall Ship Festival

ORGANISERS are promising a feast of entertainment and music during this weekend's Barry Waterfront Tall Ship Festival.

The festival (September 1-2) will feature two days of family fun, including a feast of music from a number of popular bands, and a chance to look around the Tall Ship *Stavros S Niarchos.*

Another ship, the Baltic Trader, *The Ruth*, was also due in dock for the festival, but unfortunately it is currently in Liverpool and adverse weather conditions have prevented it from sailing down in time for the weekend.

A Vale Council spokesman said: "Bands will be on stage on both days from approximately 12:30pm.

"An energetic Saturday evening line-up will climax with 'Too Toned' and 'The Relics', while Sunday will be a more chilled-out, soulful day featuring an acoustic set from local 13-year-old Scot Hawtins and bands such as 'Blues Central', 'Wonderbrass' and Big Mac's Wholly Soul Band" *The music line-up is as follows.*

Saturday: 12:45pm – Them Deadbeats; 1:45pm – Still Waiting; 2:45pm – Studio 41; 3:30pm – The Town; 5pm – Freeway; 6:30pm – Too Toned; 8:30pm – The Relics.

Sunday: 12:30pm – Gentleman Prefer Blondes; 2pm – Scott Hawtins; 3pm – Blues Central; 4:30pm – Wonderbrass; 6pm – Big Mac's Wholly Soul Band.

The bumper family weekend will also include street entertainers, stalls, vintage cars and steam engines, a children's miniature railway, and a fairground, while you can also meet some salty seadogs in the pirate village!

Entrance to the festival is free, but charges will apply for certain attractions. For further details please call 01446 704737 or go online at www.visitthevale.com

Ty Hafan lottery draw: *latest prizewinners*

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D737.

- **£2,000:** 116795.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £6,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 510790, 870957, 448049, 156143, 237661, 515318, 205025, 422317, 657077, 216685, 756120, 609789, 508548, 250789, 439594, 136674, 662593, 101991, 562481, 703208.
- **£5:** 353011, 448774, 781215, 952812, 580856, 410574, 118619, 693426, 832597, 490094, 442339, 574835, 162341, 372914, 663107, 529545, 769700, 318859, 737670, 169131, 803930, 572952, 616538, 147775, 366533, 793630, 414724, 801078, 521469, 760886, 660467, 151688, 694018, 281387, 429038, 189625, 406630, 693312, 435266, 372580, 362139, 734127, 709476, 802301, 148931, 850507, 517152, 877190, 485627, 327367, 249109, 433542, 356911, 117178, 588683, 260481, 791352, 367025, 787856, 942099.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

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This Impostor leaves an indelible mark...

THE phrase that real life is stranger than fiction is never truer than in the world of documentary.

Since Michael Moore showed that there was both demand, and in turn plenty of box office, for cinematically released documentaries, we've seen all forms of human life on the big screen, from feuding arcade gamers to youngsters competing in spelling bees, and everything in between.

The latest documentary to hit the big screen is *The Impostor*, a film by Bart Layton, which tells the story of a family who are shocked when their son, who went missing four years previously, suddenly turns up in Spain; however all is not as it seems, and as the identity of the son is called into question, so too are a whole manner of incidents that make the reappearance the tip of the iceberg...

Given the paucity of original storylines emanating from Hollywood, it's no surprise that cinemagoers are being drawn into real-life stories that offer far more than their fictional counterparts; so when handed a story that could have been ripped straight from the pages of a film, you're left with something a bit more intriguing than first intended.

Bart Layton was on to a winner when given the story of Nicholas Barclay, whose disappearance and subsequent reappearance as the impostor of the title, Frederic Bourdin, proves to be the tipping point of a story that goes in some unexpected directions.

Layton, who has previously worked with television documentaries, is more than comfortable within this genre and it shows – he is surefooted with the story, teasing little reveals and keeping the story flowing, while the mixture of atmospheric visuals and talking heads is well balanced.

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

A documentary is only as strong as the actual story allows, and going into the film cold is the best way – the more you learn through the film the greater the impact it creates, moving into unexpected directions. Your response as a viewer will range from incredulity that the family could ever think that Bourdin could be an older Barclay, to humour as Bourdin seemingly gets away with his behaviour to disgust and concern as Layton's sly reveals push the story into a new direction.

Layton is also good at passing little in the way of judgement on his subjects. Their behaviour is delivered matter-of-factly to the viewer who can make their own minds up about the actions of Bourdin and the family of Barclay as the story progresses. You do get the feeling that at times Layton is playing the dramatic card a little heavily, a last act reveal intriguing but also feeling ever so slightly forced.

The Impostor is however a most riveting documentary which engages on every level, and Layton shows himself askilled storyteller with a most compelling narrative.

VERDICT – An incredibly interesting documentary which feels larger than life at times, *The Impostor* is a well-told story that surprises at every turn. Well marshalled by Bart Layton, it is a film that is certainly worth seeking out, and a wonderful alternative to the generic output of Hollywood at present. *Highly recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Capturing The Friedmans* (2003), *Catfish* (2010)

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS IN THE GARW

THE Garw valley has a rich industrial history and once had a total of six working pits in the shape of Lluest, Ffaldau, Darren, Glenafon, International and Garw with Ffaldau and Garw being the last to close in 1985.

Now the area has substantially changed and the old railway beds that once transported passengers as well as freight are no longer in use, but instead have been turned into paths that can be enjoyed by cyclists, runners and walkers for leisure activities.

Recently, Rachel and Clive were joined by 10 walkers on a wet morning for a trip up to the Garw valley and hopefully the chance of better weather later in the day.

From Blackmill where the Afon Ogwr Mawr and Fach are joined to form the River Ogmore which reaches the Bristol Channel near Ogmore-by-Sea the group tramped along part of the Ogmore valley cycle route beside the Ogwr Fawr River.

Having climbed to the edge of an oak forest on Craig Tal-y-fan, fern and gorse lined tracks led to open access land, and having joined part of the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk, they crossed the road to join the Garw Valley cycle track, which begins at Bryngarw House and runs through the old disused railway line to Blaengarw.

After coffee, they moved on to reach Bettws crossing the common with its group of grazing horses, and, unfortunately, the site of a burned out school.

After some road-walking, the group re-entered fields that were covered with the invasive Himalayan Balsam as the rain got heavier.

An access point on the Garw Valley cycle track which is constructed in a deep ravine that had been blasted through, led the group along the flattest part of their route. .

Lunch and a chance to dry out as the rain had stopped was taken at a children's play area complete with benches and a picnic table before the group headed along a bridle path and prepared to climb up onto the open moorland of Pen y Foel by way of Nant Llwyncria.

As the mist cleared, they were rewarded with extensive views of the surrounding countryside and across the channel to Exmoor.

A dry stone-walled track led them to Cae Abbot complete with a church and pub as well, and after a brief stop to view the churchyard they crossed farmland and tramped beside the Ogwr Fawr back to Blackmill where they enjoyed a drink before the journey home.

On September 1, meet at 8.30am at Cogan for a 12-mile moderate walk from the Fourteen Locks to Twmbarlwm; contact Val on 02920 706315/Terry on 02920 595791.

On September 2, meet at 9am (not 9.30am, as in the programme) for a 12-mile hard walk at Pen y Gadair, Waun Fach and Pen Trumau; contact Robin on 02920 514051.

To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 255102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Trehill lecture

AMONGST the various historic features of the Vale recently noted at the National Eisteddfod was its wealth of chapels: one of these is Trehill Presbyterian Church, St Nicholas, founded by Howell Harris in 1740.

That close connection with the great Methodist reformer is cherished by the church and a new lectureship has been established to celebrate that fact.

The first lecture will be delivered on Wednesday, September 5th at the church at 7pm, when Professor Densil Morgan of t4he University of wales, Lampeter, a distinguished historian of welsh Christianity in the 20th century, will lecture of 'Howells Howells Trehill and Methodism in the Vale of Glamorgan".

An added interest is that Prof Morgan's book on Matthews Ewenny was launched at the Eisteddfod.

Two regional AMs press the Assembly to set up a cancer treatment fund

WELSH Conservative regional AMs Suzy Davies and Byron Davies attended the launch of a petition calling on the Welsh Assembly Government to set up a £5 million cancer treatment fund to pay for cancer drugs and advanced radiotherapy and other treatments for patients in Wales.

Suzy Davies said that many drugs routinely given to English cancer patients are not available in Wales.

She said: "Recent independent research by the Rarer Cancer Foundation found that there are 24 cancer medicines routinely prescribed in England which are not easily available to patients in Wales.

"People who are seriously ill with cancer should not be having to fight to get the treatment they need when over the border they would have it without question."

Byron Davies said that the petition was calling for more cancer treatments to be available – not just drugs.

"There are innovations in radiosurgery like Cyber Knife and Gamma Knife, which people in Wales cannot access at all," he said. "Patients have had to go to England.

"A £5million fund would make all these treatments available to either save or prolong lives."

Those who want to sign the petition can find it online at: yourvoiceintheassembly.co.uk.

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Lorraine - 01446 407002

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5.30pm &7.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre, Celtic Way
Helen - 01446 750738

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church, Elfed Road
Nia - 07793 885581

TUESDAY
Barry - 5.30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street
Joanne - 01446 404897

Barry - 4.30pm
St. Davids Methodist Church Hall, Winston Road
Annamarie - 01446 736534

Llantwit Major
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Our Lady & St Illtyd Church (Catholic) Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

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Anna Marie - 01446 736534

WEDNESDAY
Barry
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St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie - 01446 736534

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth
9.30am & 11.45am
All Saints Church Hall Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.00pm & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

THURSDAY
Cowbridge - 9.30am
Cowbridge Rugby Club
Rob - 07708 941279

Dinas Powys
5.30pm & 7.30pm
The Cabin by swimming pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall Wyndham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

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Butlin's recalled

Several pages in a new book about Butlin's are devoted to the Butlin's Camp at Barry Island and wil be of interest to former staff members and those that visited the camp.

THE name Butlin's has been synonymous with seaside holiday camps and wholesome family entertainment for generations.

A new book, *An Illustrated History of Butlin's*, by Derek Tait, and published by Amberley Publishing at £14.99, captures those nostalgic times with the help of some 180 pictures which seem to bounce off the pages.

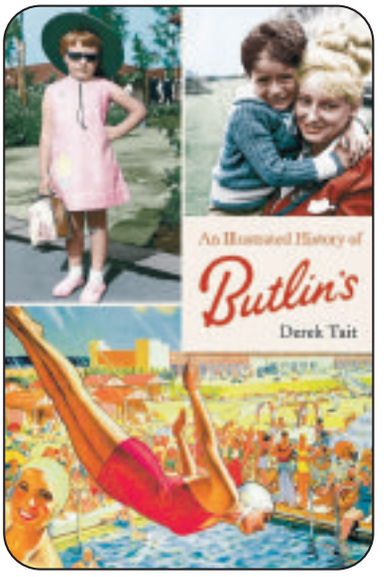
There are smiles galore on every page as the campers enjoy the talent contests, funfair rides, roller skating and beauty pageants.

Several pages are devoted to the campsite at Barry Island which was opened in 1966 and closed 30 years later in 1996.

Holidays have changed a great deal since those days, but many remember the barrack-type chalets and the endless on-site entertainment, competitions and dodgem cars.

This light-hearted book is a permanent reminder of those happy, care free days.

BRIAN LEE



Derek Tait's An Illustrated History of Butlin's takes anybody who ever spent a holiday at one of the camps down memory lane.

RECORD FINES

WARDENS on the look-out for littering and dog fouling issued a record number of fines last week.

The local authority support company, XFOR, issued 89 fixed penalty notices in the Vale during the week commencing August 20.

Assuming that all 89 fines are collected, the company will have collected £6,675 over the course of the week.

A Vale Council spokeswoman said: "XFOR, which has been tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering incidents in the Vale, is taking a zero tolerance approach to environmental crimes, where offenders will be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75 without warning."

To find out more, visit the council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

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Wednesday, 5th September
10am at Sully Old School

For further information, please call Tracey
07966 242933

WHAT'S ON / *IN BRIEF*

FoE meeting

THE next meeting of Barry&Vale Friends of the Earth will be in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry, at 7pm-7.30pm on Tuesday, September 4.

The campaigning focus of FoE this year will be on clean energy, not energy from dirty incineration or irresponsible recycling policies.

Waverley steams

PADDLE steamer Waverley sails at 9.30am from Penarth Pier this Sunday (September 2) for the 27th annual church service on the National Trust island of Lundy.

The service this year will have particular significance as it will follow traditional Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer in the 350th anniversary year of the prayer book that has been used in the Anglican Church throughout the world since 1662.

The priest at the service in the Victorian church of St Helena will be Rev Malcolm Davies, Missions to Seamen Chaplain for the Port of Barry and former Rector of the beautiful Church of St Peter – 'the Cathedral of the Rhondda'.

Full details on: 08451 304647, or: www.waverleyexcersions.co.uk.

Age Concern

AGE CONCERN Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry will be closed from August 30-September 18 for long-awaited refurbishments.

During this period, meet at Salem Baptist Church, Beryl Road for tea/coffee and information services; on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (10.15am-11.45am) and Wednesday (11.15am-11.45am).

'Stitch and Bitch' class will be on Mondays (10.15am-11.45am) and extend class on Wednesday (10.15am-11am).

Enjoying a fantastic day at the Vale Show!

THE Vale Show is always a popular event with visitors, stall holders and competitors alike.

It is also a big hit with local photographers, because there are so many opportunities for images that are bright, unusual, exciting or just plain quirky!

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
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telephone 07791 228684.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

See Page 23 for Vale Show results, and see next week for more pictures and results.

Residents are warned about bogus council officer visits

VALE Council Trading Standards officers are warning residents of a scam involving hoax visits from officials claiming to be from the council tax department.

Reports have been received of callers posing as officers from the authority's council tax department, and then asking for large amounts of personal information, including date of birth and national insurance numbers.

"Staff from the Vale Council are not gathering this information and will not ask for these details. There are concerns that this person is imitating council workers to gain information to be used for fraudulent purposes," said Principal Trading Standards officer Christina Roberts-Kinsey. "If a person cold calls and states they are from the council, please ask to see their identification card.

"If you have any doubts as to their authenticity, please do not let them into your property, or provide them with any information.

"If you are in any doubt, or if you require information relating to your council tax account, you are advised to contact the Vale Council tax section on 01446 700111."

She added that anyone who thinks they have received a similar call should report it to Citizens Advice by calling 08454 04 05 06.

This information is immediately sent to the council's Trading Standards.

Quiz League questions

HERE are this week's fab-four:

1) Who sang the 1990 hit record 'Sacrifice'?

2) Which artist painted the picture 'The Scream'?

3) When Sebastian Coe retained his 1500m title in the 1984 Olympics, which British athlete won the silver medal?

4) Which monarch of the 17th century borrowed one million pounds and instigated what we now know as the National Debt in 1693?

A Rudge
(for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1) Elton John.
2) Edvard Munch.
3) Steve Cram.
4) William III.

International Sheepdog Trials

6th, 7th & 8th September at Redlands Farm, Bonvilston

The top sheepdogs *(and their handlers)* head for the Vale

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by GEM REPORTER

WHENEVER people start talking about favourite TV programmes, you can guarantee that sooner or later, the series *One Man and his Dog* will be mentioned.

What's more, the conversation will then turn to wondering why the show, which gave an insight into the world of sheepdogs and their handlers, is no longer on primetime TV.

It was at its height in the 1980s, but since 2000, fans have had to be content with the occasional special, usually at Christmas.

It is unquestionably a programme that evokes fond memories, and seems to be equally popular with country folk and city dwellers.

Next week, fans will get a chance to combine nostalgia with a real life, close-up look at the world of sheepdog trials, because over three days (September 6–8), the brightest dogs and the sharpest shepherds will be here in the Vale!

It will be serious stuff too, because a prize fund of £100,000 is at stake!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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International Sheepdog Trials

6th, 7th & 8th September at Redlands Farm, Bonvilston

INTERNATIONAL TRIALS SEE THE BEST OF THE BEST COME TO TOWN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

The International Sheepdog Trials, billed as the biggest event of its kind in the world, takes place in Bonvilston.

In effect, it is the Home Internationals, and will involve around 80 of the finest sheepdogs from the four home countries of the UK – not forgetting their handlers!

An event spokeswoman told The GEM that thousands of visitors, from all over the world, are expected to attend.

The competition format is that each home nation will put forward a team of 15 dogs, with five reserves.

It conjures up an image of the team manager bringing on an 'impact sub' from the bench, but that is probably straying a little too far into rugby and football territory!

There will be an individual element to the competition as well. The top 15 dogs will go forward to a grand final on the third and final day.

The three-day spectacle will, therefore, culminate with the crowning of a new supreme champion.

There will also be a young handler competition and an 'International Brace' Championship which, to the uninitiated, means one handler working with two dogs!

This year's event features a food and country festival and has Welsh Government First Minister Carwyn Jones as president.

The impressive list of sponsors includes the Welsh Government, the Vale Council, Tesco, and Gilbertson and Page.

The Welsh team will be led by Pentrefoelas farmer Arthur Roberts and his dog, Chip. Arthur has only missed one international since 1974, when he was best man at a friend's wedding.

He is the third generation of his family to compete, since his father and grandfather were triallers, with his own son, Eilir, following on, and daughter Catrin, a psychology lecturer, also very involved.

He said: "It's an honour to lead Wales, and it's unexpected. It's a combination of having the right dog and things working in our favour."

The Welsh team comprises:

1: Arthur Roberts with *Chip*.
2: Angie Driscoll with *Meg*.
3: Aled Owen with *Gypsy*.
4: Gerald Lewis with *Splash (Flash)*.
5: Medwyn LL Evans with *Jan*.
6: Dan Jarman with *Jaff*.
7: Alun Jones with *(Selatyn) Kate*.
8: Harcourt Lloyd with *Kilcreen Jess*.
9: Kevin Evans with *Greg*.
10: I B Jones with *Tanhill Joe*.
11: Jeff Hudd with *Tysswg Nell*.
12: Lyn M Howells with *Max*.
13: Robert Ellis with *Mirk*.
14: John Bowen with *Belle*.
15: Richard M Millichap with *Dewi Tweed*.

Reserve: Aled Owen and *Mac*.

Brace: 1: Ian Jones with *Tom and Jess*.
2: Glyn Jones with *Don and Zak*.

Driving: Jeff Hudd with *Tysswg Nell*.

Young handler: Ben Owen and *Cael*.

The 2012 International is being hosted by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Tudor Harris.

The location is Redland Farm near Bonvilston, in the Vale of Glamorgan, CF5 6TQ.

For more information about the event, or to buy tickets, visit www.international-sheepdogtrials.org.uk

Three-day entry tickets are £20. Three-day passes offer a saving of £4 over the course of the event.

Single day entry passes are £8 and can be purchased at the gate.

Persons under 16 years of age enter free of charge.

Tickets are an entry ticket only and do not give a seat in the grandstand. Grandstand tickets must be purchased separately. A three-day grandstand ticket is £25.

TV HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from these International Trials can be seen on S4C on Monday, September 10 at 9pm.

Bydd uchafbwyntiau'r Treialon Rhyngwladol yma i'w gweld ar S4C, nos Lun 10ed o Fedi am 9pm.

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Hillman sevens proves a success

Picture by Gareth Davies

SEVERAL hundred people attended Waterton Cross on bank holiday Sunday, to support the inaugural Colin Hillman Invitation Sevens.

The day was a huge success and all teams that entered deserve a huge thank you. Samurai Sharks looked very dangerous from the start, with a star-studded team, and were the eventual winners, beating a South Wales Police Hillman 7 in the final.

To reach the final, the Samurai Sharks had to first beat a Dinas Powys team that put up a great performance and didn't roll over for the far more experienced Samurai team; the SWP Hillman seven had to see off Glaze Charity Select team entered by Ray Giles.

GLAZE Prostate Charity, Wales is the leading charity in the principality working with medical professionals in the battle against all prostate diseases, benign and malignant.

Its mission is to raise awareness, promote understanding and fund both the latest medical equipment and the training of healthcare professionals.

Another highlight of the day saw Kenfig Hill under-8s play Bridgend Sports under-8s in a tag exhibition game before the semi final, Both teams played some fantastic rugby

The wheels are already in motion to announce the date for the second tournament in 2013.

KM

Ladies Day: good turnout *(and the weather holds off as well)* at Cottrell Park!

THERE was a good turnout for the lady members and guests' competition at Cottrell Park on Thursday, August 16.

A team consisting of a lady member and two guests played a Stableford competition, the best two out of three scores counting on each hole.

It was a pleasant day, with refreshments provided by the Cottrell ladies at the halfway house.

Judy James, the ladies' team captain, thanked Mary Watkins, the competition secretary, for all her hard work in organising the competition, and other ladies for their support.

The team winners were Lorna Howells, with her guests Liz Fine from Brynhill; and Sue Gibson from Glamorganshire, with 83 points.

Jen Thomas, with guests Gail Mills and Diane Dancy from Llantrisant, were second; and Jan Cosby, with guests Alison Hurry, Pyle and Kenfig, and Sue Williams, Bromsgrove, were third, with 77 points.

Nearest the pin on the eighth green was Liz Fine, and Brenda Leaver, Celtic Manor was closest on the 15th.

The longest drive up to 25 Handicap was Amy Rees, Southerndown, and 26+ Handicap was Carolyn McKenzie, St Athan.

Nine ladies achieved a two on their card and won golf balls.

Judy James thanked all who had attended and hoped every one had enjoyed the day. CB

PG13 earn International Cup success in Cardiff

PG10 Coaching under-13s have been successful in winning the prestigious Welsh International Super Cup, recently held in Cardiff.

The Welsh International Super Cup attracts teams from across the world and has a seen huge international stars, such as Dwight Yorke, Michael Owen, Steven Gerrard, Robbie Fowler, Tomas Rosicky, Andriy Shevchenko and many more, play in the prestigious tournament over the years. This year's event included teams from Trinidad and Tobago, Africa, Malta, Dubai, Qatar .

It was the second international football tournament, PG10 has entered in three months, after shining in Dubai, where its junior side won the Dubai International Super Cup.

The team was made up of players that attend local secondary schools, such as Ysgol Gyfn Bro Morgannwg, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major Comprehensive schools

Head coach Peter Griffiths commented: "The players performed to a high standard throughout the week, developing their football skills, but also experiencing different cultures by mixing with young people from across the world.

"The tournament is a unique event and with Cardiff also hosting Olympic Games events, this certainly was a fantastic time for international teams to visit Wales and enjoy their football!" **PG**

LITTLE STARS GET CHANCE TO SHINE

As the rugby season gets under way, budding players of the future can sign up for the new term of the Welsh Rugby Union's 'Little Stars' courses which are being held in Barry, Penarth and Cowbridge.

Taking place in local leisure centres, the 'Little Stars' courses focus on the fundamental skills of rugby such as catching, throwing, agility, balance and co-ordination, and everything is taught in a really fun way.

The sessions are held for two different age groups, and for the youngest children, aged three-years-old to four, the sessions are themed with plenty of varied games being played.

For the older kids, aged five to seven, naturally a bit more rugby is introduced so that the youngsters can develop their skills and gain more of an understanding of the game.

WRU coach Sophie Wilkinson, who runs the sessions in the Vale, said: "Little Stars is a new exciting way to introduce rugby.

"There is parent involvement in the younger class, too, so be prepared!

"Youngsters are able to join mini rugby clubs once they are six-years-old, so the older sessions are therefore a bit more advanced, with a bit of tag rugby being played and more of a focus on fundamental rugby skills."

Further in formation can be obtained from Sophie Wilkinson on 07584 488290.

For details of other local sports clubs and courses, please visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay.

THE ITALIANS IN WALES

THE Barry U3A autumn programme starts with a talk by Mr Romeo Bassini on the Italian heritage in Wales, at 2pm on September 3, in New Jerusalem Hall (opposite Barry Library).

All are welcome: Monthly meetings; groups – genealogy, walking, poetry and prose, luncheon club, art history, and literature.

For further information, contact John on 01446 413328, or the Barry U3A website.

Story deadline

STORYLAB readers at Cowbridge Library have until Saturday, September 8, to finish their books.

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL MARKS 'FABULOUS' GCSE RESULTS

The Cathedral School, Llandaff, which has pupils from throughout the local area, has reported two thirds of all GCSE entries graded A* or A, with 100 per cent of pupils gaining five or more examinations graded A*-C.

At the top end, three quarters of pupils gained five or more A* and A grades, including Claire Shadwell who gained 12 A*s, and Samuel Vaughan (eight A*s and three As).

Headmaster Stephen Morris expressed his joy at the results.

He said: "Once again, these are fabulous results. Well done to all of our pupils."

The school will host an open morning on Saturday, October 6, from 10am-12:30pm.

Local Cathedral School pupils celebrate their GCSE results.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00890/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed works include replacing the shop front window at Unit 8, Penarth Pier (replacement on a like for like basis)
Location:/Lleoliad: Unit 8, Penarth Pier, Esplanade, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00898/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolish existing conservatory linking the Pheasant House and the Dovecote. Construct new enlarged conservatory on broadly the same footprint
Location:/Lleoliad: The Pheasant House and Dovecote, Nash Manor, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00906/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erect proprietary timber garden room to rear of property
Location:/Lleoliad: The Three Tuns, St. Nicholas
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00856/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolish existing dwelling at Orchard Rise, No 6 Penlan Road, Llandough, CF64 2LT and construct two new dwellings with associated parking
Location:/Lleoliad: Orchard Rise, 6, Penlan Road, Llandough
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Pound Cottage, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00862/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Outline erection of 40 dwellings with associated access and landscaping. All matters reserved
Location:/Lleoliad: Former Emporium Garden Centre, Fferm Goch, Llangan

May affect a Public Right of Way / Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00877/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of new forestry track
Location:/Lleoliad: Ty Cerrig, Bonvilston

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00862/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Outline erection of 40 dwellings with associated access and landscaping. All matters reserved
Location:/Lleoliad: Former Emporium Garden Centre, Fferm Goch, Llangan

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**
Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 30 August, 2012
M. Goldsworthy, Operational Manager Development & Building Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

CADOXTON'S BOWLERS SLIP TO FRIENDLY DEFEAT

A lovely evening, good company, and an enjoyable game was the outcome of the visit of St Fagans to Cadoxton, for a friendly fixture – but still no success.

John Stewart fell 7-1 behind, on his rink, after winning the first end. Over the next five ends they collected a further six shots, but unfortunately conceded a '5' and '3'. A further eight shots went to the visitors, before the last four ends were shared with singles.

In a closely contested game on Len Davies's rink the scores reached 8-8 after 11 ends. At this stage a gap opened against the home side when three '3's and a '2' were scored with just two singles in reply. The deficit was never closed.

The first three ends went to the home side, skipped by Howard Craven, but the advantage was cancelled out after the next three. The lead was regained for a score of 11-9 after 10 ends. A '5' followed by six losing ends to prevent any success.

Don Kuhnell's rink had ten winning ends during the game, five of which were singles on the opening ends with the opposing skip preventing anything higher with good bowls. The game was levelled 6-6 after nine ends. From this period the advantage went to and fro and with three ends left the scores were level again.

A good slice of luck on the penultimate end took away a count of four with the St Fagans skip's last bowl, to leave the home side 3 shots down. A further count of four on the final end, which would have won the game, was also turned over, when the jack was moved to make four against, but the shot was drawn with the last bowl for the home side, unfortunately not enough to win.

Scores: G Powell, L Adams, S Clarke, J Stewart 9 - 25 D Pettican, M Morgan, J Russell, P Hamer; J Stacey, M Mathews, D Evans, D Kuhnell 12 - 14 J Daniels, A Sutton, P Snook, C Chapman; I Robertson, A Turner, J Sugden, L Davies 13 –18 P Jones, J Wootten, P Ostrich, D Morgan; G Solomon, R Knight, G Brown, H Craven 13 - 24 B Leho, A Lerwell, J Ellis, J Gibson. Final score: 47 - 81.

Cadoxton v Millwood – This rearranged match at Millwood, on a night interrupted by showers, completed the Munro Cup fixtures for the season.

Cadoxton came out on top with three successful rinks. Graham Brown led his rink to a comprehensive win against Keith Davies.

They were totally in control, except for four losing ends, one of which was a '6' conceded on the 15th end. This big margin more than covered the only defeated rink, which was skipped by Don Kuhnell, who gave an unusually poor performance. However, his lead, Gil Powell, gave an outstanding performance with accurate close bowls throughout the game and did not deserve to be on the losing side.

Howard Craven's rink scored a '5' on the third end against Andrew Hatcher, but trailed 7-5 after six ends. However, for the remainder of the game, they were always on top. After 14 ends they held a 14-11 advantage, which was followed with a '3' and another '5' to open a commanding lead with two ends left. Each side finished with a '2'.

A closer game was played between Derek Brook's rink and Brian Crockford. After 5 ends the scores were tied at 4 each. Neither side were allowed to build a substantial advantage until the visitors scored a '4' on the 14th end to open up a 5 shot lead. Over the next three ends this was cut back to just a single shot. Nevertheless a single on the last ensured the points.

Scores: T Bishop, S Clarke, L Davies, G Brown 25 – 11 R Wills, G Whitehouse, B Gregory, K Davies; G Powell, M Mathews, J Sugden, D Kuhnell 10 – 17 C Peters, G Stone, M Williams, J Butler; I Robertson, J Stewart, K Chedgzoy, H Craven 24 – 13 P Childs, D Gorringe, A Bumford, A Hatcher; H Hellyar, J Crout, G Davies, D Brook 16 – 14 B Webb, S Black, J Slee, B Crockford. Final score: 75 - 55.

DK

COACH IS WANTED

Could you make a difference the development of girls' football?

The Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club currently has a coaching opportunity for one of its junior teams due to a highly successful summer recruitment programme.

Matches take place on Sunday mornings in the South Wales Girls League and training session on Wednesday evenings in the Barry area.

The club also supports its volunteers with coach education courses.

For more information please call 07832 273688 or email info@valegirlsfc.co.uk.

LW

Roller skating club's inaugural competition highlights Vale's talent

THE newly formed Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club held its first club annual competition recently at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.

Trophies were kindly donated privately or by local businesses.

Jane Hutt AM watched some of the events and seemed delighted by what she saw, and presented the trophies, medals and certificates.

Julie Whittingham from the Federation of Artistic Roller Skating had the difficult job of judging the six events.

Results: The Barry Tyre Centre Trophy -1st place Charleigh Griffith, 2nd place Erin Middleton, 3rd place Bailee Potter.

Barrett Butchers Trophy - 1st place Bethan Daly, 2nd place Hannah John, 3rd place Michael Vaughan.

George Morgan Memorial Trophy - 1st place Kaitlin Daly and Katie Vaughan, 2nd place Lara Goodwin and Hannah John, 3rd place Naomi Cooper and Phoebe Escott.

Tony Vodden Memorial Trophy - 1st place Katie Vaughan, 2nd place Kaitlin Daly, 3rd place Phoebe Escott.

Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club Trophy -

This was a novelty free dance competition; the skaters choose their own music, make up, programme and dress: Results:1st place Kaitlin Daly, 2nd place Bethan Daly, 3rd place Emily Eveleigh.

There was a seventh trophy donated by our judge Julie Whittingham.

It was awarded for the most improved skater, chosen by head coach Sheilah Davies. This was kept a close secret until she announced Michael Vaughan as the winner.

Posies of flowers were given to Bethan Daly and Medi Western for their hard work and improvement in the last few months.

Following these events our coaches who give so much of their time, gave a short exhibition of a dance medley.

Donna Daly, Anne-Marie Escott, Amy Goodwin, Penny Phillips, Liz Vaughan and Leslie Fletcher, received great applause.

Bouquets were presented to Jane Hutt and Julie Whittingham.

Chocolates were given to the six coaches and to our overworked secretary Sheilagh Jones and to Chairlady Hilary Cridge.

If you would like to try this challenging but fun sport the club meets at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre on Saturday 3-00 to 5-00pm and at the Colcot Sport Centre on Tuesday 6-00 to 8-00pm. For more information e-mail, sheilagha0nn@hotmail.co.uk

SJ

VALE SHOW RESULTS 2012

CATTLE

CLASS 1: Bull born on or before 31/12/2010

First – Nigel Pritchard, Hyatt, Sarnesfield, Norton, Canon, Herefordshire.

CLASS 2: Bull born on or after 01/01/11

First – Nigel Pritchard, Hyatt, Sarnesfield, Norton, Canon, Herefordshire.

CLASS 3: Cow or heifer or with calf at foot or cow in calf

CLASS 4: Heifer in calf

CLASS 5: Maiden heifer

First – National History Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff.

CLASS 6: Pair owned by the same exhibitor

First – Nigel Pritchard, Hyatt, Sarnesfield, Norton, Canon, Herefordshire.

The Peter Wood and Sons Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Best Exhibit in the Any Other Beef Breed Classes

Winner – National History Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff.

The Miss Ellen Thomas Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Best Hereford Exhibit

No entries.

The Hereford Cattle Society special championship rosette for the Best Hereford Exhibit

No entries.

LIMOUSIN:

CLASS 7: Bull born on or before 31/12/10

First – E & N Phillips, Blackmeadows, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny.

CLASS 8: Bull born on or after 01/01/11

First – David Howells, Gelli Farm, Cymmer, Port Talbot.

Second – Messrs Edwards & Sons, Ty Draw Farm, Maesycoed, Pontypridd.

Third – Thomas Jenkins & Sons, Torycoed Farm, Rhiwsaeson, Llantrisant, Mid Glam.

CLASS 9: Cow or heifer with calf at foot or cow in calf

First – E & N Phillips, Blackmeadows, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny.

Second – WH Williams & Son, Dolau Ifan Ddu Farm, Blackmill Bridgend.

CLASS 10: Heifer in calf

First – Thomas Jenkins & Sons, Torycoed Farm, Rhiwsaeson, Llantrisant, Mid Glam.

Second – Arwyn Prichard, Vians Hill, St Nicholas, Cardiff.

CLASS 11: Maiden heifer

First – Thomas Jenkins & Sons, Torycoed Farm, Rhiwsaeson, Llantrisant, Mid Glam.

CLASS 12: Pair owned by the same exhibitor

First – E & N Phillips, Blackmeadows, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny.

Second – David Howells, Gelli Farm, Cymmer, Port Talbot.

Third – Thomas Jenkins & Sons, Torycoed Farm, Rhiwsaeson, Llantrisant, Mid Glam.

The MT Board Cup for the best pair of Limousin cattle

Winner – E & N Phillips, Blackmeadows, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny.

Vale Show championship rosette for the Best Male Champion

Champ – David Howells, Gelli Farm, Cymmer, Port Talbot.

Reserve – E & N Phillips, Blackmeadows, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny.

Vale Show championship rosette for the Best Female Champion

Champ – Thomas Jenkins & Sons, Torycoed Farm, Rhiwsaeson, Llantrisant, Mid Glam.

Reserve – E & N Phillips, Blackmeadows, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny.

Overall Limousin Championship

Champ – David Howells, Gelli Farm, Cymmer, Port Talbot.

Reserve – Thomas Jenkins & Sons, Torycoed Farm, Rhiwsaeson, Llantrisant, Mid Glam.

Limousin Cattle Society special rosette for the Champion and Reserve Champion in the Limousin section

Champ – David Howells, Gelli Farm, Cymmer, Port Talbot.

Reserve – National History Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff.

Arthur John and Co Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Best Exhibit in the Limousin classes

Winner – David Howells, Gelli Farm, Cymmer, Port Talbot.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Champion – David Howells, Gelli Farm, Cymmer, Port Talbot.

Reserve – Thomas Jenkins & Sons, Torycoed Farm, Rhiwsaeson, Llantrisant, Mid Glam.

Best Pair of Inter-breed Beef cattle owned by the same exhibitor (winner of classes 6 and 12)

The Dalgety Crosfield Cup for the Best Pair of Beef Cattle

Winner – E & N Phillips, Blackmeadows, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny.

Interbreed beef championship (to be competed for by the champion of both beef sections)

The Herbert R Thomas Cup for the Best Exhibit in all the Beef Classes

Winner – David Howells, Gelli Farm, Cymmer, Port Talbot.

Beef Champion to receive Vale Show Beef Champion & Reserve Beef Champion rosettes

Holstein Classes

CLASS 13: Calf under 12 months on day of show

First – MA Webber & K Rickard, Castle Farm, Bishton, Newport.

Second – Clive Thomas, Dros Y Mor Farm, St Donats, Llantwit Major.

Third – Clive Thomas, Dros Y Mor Farm, St Donats, Llantwit Major.

Class 14: Maiden heifer over 12 and under 18 months on day of show

First – M A Webber & K Rickard, Castle Farm, Bishton, Newport.

Second – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan.

Third – HD Hanks & Son, Ty Canol Farm, Llantrityd.

Mervyn Thomas Dros Y Mor Perpetual Challenge Trophy

Winner – MA Webber & K Rickard, Castle Farm, Bishton, Newport.

CLASS 15: Heifer in calf, to calve, no older than 36 months

First – HD Hanks & Son, Ty Canol Farm, Llantrityd.

Second – HD Hanks & Son, Ty Canol Farm, Llantrityd.

Third – RM Lougher & Son, Tytanglwst Farm, Pyle.

The Ladbrooke (Bridgend Creamery) Challenge Shield

Winner – HD Hanks & Son, Ty Canol Farm, Llantrityd.

CLASS 16: Cow in calf but not in milk – any age

First – RM Lougher & Son, Tytanglwst Farm, Pyle.

Second – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan.

Third – Clive Thomas, Dros Y Mor Farm, St Donats, Llantwit Major.

CLASS 17: Heifer in milk

First – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan.

Second – RM Lougher & Son, Tytanglwst Farm, Pyle.

CLASS 18: Junior cow in milk (second/third lactation only)

First – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan.

Second – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan.

Third – E Reader & Son, Goldsland Farm, Wenvoe.

CLASS 19: Senior cow in milk (fourth lacation and above)

First – RM Lougher & Son, Tytanglwst Farm, Pyle.

Second – RM Lougher & Son, Tytanglwst Farm, Pyle.

Third – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan.

Golden Vale Dairies Cup

Winner – RM Lougher & Son, Tytanglwst Farm, Pyle.

In milk champion (eligible from classes 17, 18 and 19). Winners to receive Champion and Reserve Champion rosettes and The Glynne Clay Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Best Exhibit in the Holstein Classes

Winner/Champ – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan.

Reserve – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan.

Holstein UK Championship Award Rosette to the exhibitor of the Champion

Winner – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan.

Best exhibitor-bred champion and best udder in show. Both receive Holstein UK rosettes

Winner – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan

CLASS 20: Group of eight in calf Holstein heifers to be judged on the farm, at least three weeks prior to the show.

First – RM Lougher & Son, Tytanglwst Farm, Pyle.

Second – G Anthony & Son, Haregrove Farm, Laleston.

Third – Jack Watts, Tynycwm Farm, Bedwas.

Fourth – VJ Price & Son, Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan.

Williams & Glynne Cup

Winner – RM Lougher & Son, Tytanglwst Farm, Pyle.

Any other pure Dairy Breed

CLASS 21: Maiden heifer, any breed other than Holstein

First – MA Webber & K Rickard, Castle Farm, Bishton, Newport.

Second – RP & KJ Granville, Gelli Farm, Cefn Cribbwr, Bridgend.

Third – E Reader & Son, Goldsland Farm, Wenvoe.

CLASS 22: Dairy Cow. Any breed other than Holstein

First – Caroline Morgan, Lower House Farm, Llanvair, Discoed, Chepstow.

Second – RP & KJ Granville, Gelli Farm, Cefn Cribbwr, Bridgend.

Third – E Reader & Son, Goldsland Farm, Wenvoe.

Richard Taylor Perpetual Challenge Cup

Winner – Caroline Morgan, Lower House Farm, Llanvair, Discoed, Chepstow.

SEE NEXT WEEK FOR MORE RESULTS

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£68,500
3 bed, rear garden, no ongoing chain.

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2 bed flat, modern finish, 2 parking spaces.

BRACKLA

Ashbrook
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£110,000
3 bed semi, upvc DG, gas CH. No ongoing chain.

ABERKENFIG

Church Street
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£129,995
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PEN-Y-FAI

Chantal Avenue
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Reduced To £141,995
3 bed bungalow, town & motorway links, garage

LLANTWIT MAJOR

Georgian Close
CF61 2XX
£164,995
3 bed semi, conservatory. Viewing recommended.

LLANTWIT MAJOR

Ham Lane South
CF61 1RP
£169,995
3 bed semi. No onging chain. Rear garden.

TONDU

Park Terrace
CF32 9HE
£189,995
4 double bed, traditional property, original features

BRIDGEND

Rhodfa Cnocell y Coed
CF31 5FS
£215,000
4 bed property, Broadlands new build, relocation sale.

LLANTWIT MAJOR

Whitewell Drive
CF61 1TA
£249,995
4 bed detached, conservatory, cul de sac location. Viewing recommended.

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Pupils' summer artwork goes on show in Cardiff

ABOVE: Children pleased with their structure of Alice in Wonderland's Queen of Hearts

ABOVE: Arts development officer Guy O'Donnell, with children who created their own artistic figure.

A SUMMER creative programme has led to local children's work being displayed at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.

This year's 'Play 4 Life' summer programme has been active in venues throughout Bridgend county borough, with around 500 local children taking part in the free sessions based around sports, play, arts and crafts.

The initiative – funded by each area's town or community council and organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's Active Young People Department – has encouraged children to take part in a variety of activities.

Now in their third year, the sessions encourage children to get active, get creative, get involved and have fun playing.

BCBC's arts and community development team ran workshops as part of the programme, where children designed and constructed three-dimensional figures based on the work of popular author and illustrator, Anthony Browne, who combines narrative with pictures in a colourful imaginative way.

The figures created by the children will be on display at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff during September as part of the 'Through the Magic Mirror – the World of Anthony Browne' exhibition, which brings the picture book artist's work to life.

Registration for the Play 4 Life scheme this summer has now closed but further workshops will contribute to the work displayed at the exhibition.

To find out more about other arts workshops and activities that are taking place in Bridgend county borough, contact Guy O'Donnell, arts development officer at mailto:guy.odonnell@bridgend.gov.uk

For more information on how your children can be active, contact BCBC's Active Young People Department on 01656 815222.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Saron Chapel

FUNDS are urgently needed for the repair of steps leading to the Treoes Chapel's vestry, which have deteriorated further over the past months.

Friends of the Chapel had no choice but to instigate emergency work, for health and safety reasons.

Three quotes have been obtained, and instructions issued for the most competitive contractor to start work as soon as possible.

The cost of the restoration work to the steps, including the refurbishment of the original metal gate and undertaking all the work in accordance with the character of the chapel will amount to £3,000.

Friends of Saron have already collected £2,000, which has taken many hours of fundraising. They will continue their efforts until the work is finished, with more fundraising events planned.

It would be a sad day if Saron, dating back to 1831, ended as a place of worship.

Are there any residents in and around the village of Treoes who are in the building and restoration business and could perhaps help? Please call Gill Ham on 01656 663693.

This year's harvest festival service at Saron Chapel will take place on Sunday, September 9 at 3pm conducted by Rev Robin Samuel. Everyone will be welcome.

This year's harvest festival service at St Mary Hill Church will take place on Sunday, September 16, at 6.30pm, followed by the harvest supper in the Llangan and St Mary Hill community hall.

Please call 01656 860881 if you wish to attend.

Recess *(and the rain)* ideal for catching up on my reading!

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.

'Are you enjoying your holiday'?

I AM asked this question often during recess. The truth is that recess is a change of rhythm, the chance to catch up with people and issues locally and, best of all, a chance to read.

Every MP is driven to distraction by the lack of time to read, the constant need to look at a synopsis, rather than in depth analysis, in a hectic schedule.

This summer, I have indulged myself with a number of books. Sherard Cowper Coles' book *Cables from Kabul* details his time as British Ambassador in Afghanistan and the attempts to find a solution to the impasse in the war against the Taliban.

The Defence Select Committee, DSC, is to carry out an inquiry in October into the British withdrawal from Afghanistan planned for 2014 and the book is a good background reading.

The analysis of the numerous initiatives, new campaigns and the frustrations of working in coalition is never dull.

Also useful for the inquiry is Ahmed Rashid's *Pakistan On The Brink*. No one understands Pakistan and Afghanistan like Mr Rashid, a highly respected Pakistan journalist and author of three excellent books about the region.

He gave evidence to the DSC recently and was so clear sighted and knowledgeable it was a privilege to listen to him.

With almost 40 nations drawing back their forces and equipment through to 2014, Pakistan's road link to its port of Karachi is critical to movement in and out of land-locked Afghanistan.

The road to Karachi was closed for several months this year during a stand-off with the US, leaving only the Northern Distribution Network, which involves rail into Uzbekistan then road to Tajikistan, private shipping companies then move equipment through Kazakhstan or Kyrgyzstan, and on through Russia to ports in Siberia or on the Baltic Sea.

Each container load of goods is estimated to cost £20,000 to move.

Once the coalition forces withdraw in 2014, troops will remain as part of the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan, NTMA, there to continue to build security and governance capability.

As part of the Defence Select Committee evidence, we will be interviewing Roderic Braithwaite, who wrote the excellent *Afghantsy*, which details the Russian invasion, war and final withdrawal from Afghanistan between 1979-88.

This excellent book shows how ISAF has repeated many of the Russian mistakes. The Najibullah regime left in control fell when finance ended with the disillusion of the Soviet Union in 1990 leading to the Taliban capture of Kabul in 1996.

It is estimated that it will cost £800 million for Britain to withdraw from Afghanistan and we are committed to an ongoing package of financial aid of £2billion, while the US will pay up to $4billion per year.

British defence and foreign policy is largely dictated by our key ally, the United States. The US Presidential election has profound implications for the UK as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has proven.

To understand and prepare for this year's US Presidential election, *Race of a Life Time* by Heilemann and Halperin, the story of the race between Obama, Hilary Clinton and John McCain for the Whitehouse was invaluable.

Nothing could be further from British politics than those of the US. The money involved is eye watering.

Obama raised $750million for his 2008 campaign and this coming election is expected to cost $6billion. The chapters on the selection of Sarah Palin and her adventures once she was declared John McCain's running mate are jaw dropping.

My present read is off on a different tack. It is Jimmy Burn's *The Land That Lost Its Heroes*. Burns was a journalist with the Financial Times based in Argentina in the years before and during the Falklands War in 1982. His book details the political back story to the conflict, as well as the experiences of the Islanders during the invasion.

This year was the 30th anniversary of the war: there are so many common denominators.

There were defence cuts, close economic ties to states such as Argentina and Libya that were seen as critical and a belief that the US would offer unconditional support.

The US support did eventually come and some of the defence cuts were shelved, but here we are 30 years later, back with cuts and Argentine threats.

Edmund Burke said: "Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it". I have been attempting to spend my summer exploring those aspects of history I believe will be critical to my understanding of decisions facing us in the coming months in Westminster.

I have not mentioned re-reading the still very funny *Things Can Only Get Better* by John O'Farrell.

The pile of books to the side of my bed is lower, but I have yet to complete *The Afghan Solution* by Lucy Morgan Edwards and Mark Henderson's *The Geek Manifesto or Why Science Matters*.

A rain-filled summer has some advantages. The Commons returns for three weeks from September 3-17, then adjourns for the conference season.

We finally return on October 15, and I hope to have completed then all!

MP's cheque gives boost to centre's funds

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon presents the cheque to Huw and Julie Morris.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon met with Huw and Julie Morris, to hand over a cheque for the Westward Community Centre earned through parliamentary questionnaires.

She commented: "I hope this cheque will help towards the funding of the centre, as all voluntary organisations are having a hard time and need our help.

"The Westward Community Centre in Cefn Glas is the hub of the community and hosts a number of weekly activities.

"Mr Morris advised me that there is now a Community and Companion Café at the centre, which is run in conjunction with Mental Health Matters, which is open every Monday and Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

"Also, a Macmillan Coffee Morning is coming up on Saturday, September 29, from 10am-noon. Everyone is welcome to come along and support the centre."

For further information, contact Dawn on 07826 038137, or Huw on 07087 6552717, email: huwjulie@tiscali.co.uk, go to their website: www.cobwebs.uk.net/wwca, or Facebook: Westward Community Centre.

"The Westward Community Centre provides a vital service to its community.

"I am pleased to have been able to make a small contribution towards its continued success," the MP added.

SORE KNEES AND ACHING MUSCLES AS CHARITY CYCLISTS COME HOME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Harriet Thomas, speaking on behalf of the organising team back in Porthcawl, told The GEM: "Before the boys set off on the ride, the appeal had raised £10,500, and we are aiming for £16,000 to provide the caravan in Trecco Bay.

Harriet added: "We see it as a gift from the town of Porthcawl to the children – because so many people in the town have supported our appeal."

She said that other fundraising events had been held in the run up to the cycle ride, including an 80s night in the Grand Pavilion in May.

Another big event - 'Music in the Marquee' at the Hi-Tide Inn – is scheduled for September 21.

Harriet added: "We have had great support today from the Atlantic Hotel, which has hosted the welcome home evening, and has arranged a number of fundraising activities here tonight."

The four-day cycling challenge meant covering an average of just under 100 miles a day, starting in Porthcawl on the Thursday (August 23) and finishing on the Sunday. The riders were all reasonably fit but, crucially, not necessarily in training for long-distance cycling.

One rider, Christian Evans told The GEM: "The worst thing was the following morning.

"It took almost two hours just to get the muscles loose again after the efforts of the previous day."

In fact, it is a dead cert that the riders could not have completed the ride in four days without the three-man support team.

Brothers Brett and Neil Morgan were driving the van (provided by the VW Sinclair Group) which carried spare bikes and replacement parts, while physio Gerwyn Hopkins was kept very busy massaging tired legs in the evening, and then again the following morning.

Gerwyn told The GEM: "I was intending to be on the ride, but I suffered a stress fracture of my ankle while training."

Neil Morgan said: "I think Gerwyn ended up working harder than the cyclists, as he was working non-stop on their aching leg muscles."

Gerwyn said that he had spent two hours every evening massaging legs, and another hour or so each morning.

He said: "James Lott and Paul Downes jnr were both struggling with knee injuries, but they were determined to finish.

"In fact, on the final day, Paul left 90 minutes before the rest of the group because he was afraid that he would slow them down. He rode the route solo until they caught him about 20 miles from Porthcawl."

ABOVE: The nine cyclists arriving at journey's end – the Atlantic Hotel.

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT.

ABOVE: The cyclists with (front row, left to right) Gerwyn Hopkins, Brett Morgan and Neil Morgan, the hard-working support team.

With around 100 miles to cover every day, the riders would wake early so that Gerwyn could go to work on stiff leg muscles.

After a large breakfast, they would on the road by 8am, aiming to cover 30 miles before stopping for a mid-morning drink and snack.

Lunch at around 1.30pm was devoted to eating a lot in a short time. Neil Morgan explained: "The riders needed to take in around 7,000 calories a day, so our job was to take the van to the nearest supermarket and stock up on pasta, chocolate bars, bananas and energy drinks.

"They ate that quickly, and covered another 50 miles in the afternoon."

They had to deal with some torrential rain during the ride, and also some long climbs that really made the legs suffer.

Well over 100 people were at the Atlantic Hotel to welcome the riders, and they were greeted with a huge cheer.

Celebrations went on into the evening, and a raffle and silent auction took place.

Harriet Thomas said: "Just through the raffle and silent auction, a total of £1,500 was raised on the night, which was fantastic!

"Also, the riders will be collecting their sponsorship money over the next two weeks. Together with the next fundraising evening on September 21 at the Hi-Tide, we are well on our way to reaching our target."

DO BRIDGEND DRIVERS ABUSE BLUE BADGES?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

With the Paralympic Games only a week away, the initiative was also supported by legendary Paralympic athlete, Baroness Tanni Grey Thomson, and Porthcawl's Paralympic cyclist, Simon Richardson.

It follows the recent introduction of new-style blue badges for legitimate users of blue badge spaces.

The badge contains additional security features to help the authorities identify improper use and prevent forgeries, and is free across Wales but not in England and Scotland.

The Welsh Government has stated its intention to crack down on the so called 'space invaders' who either park in a designated space without a blue badge or use a badge fraudulently.

The results of the survey also revealed strong public support for tougher policing of the system.

Nearly 70 per cent of respondents in the Vale and in Bridgend said it was never acceptable to park in an accessible space without a permit.

In the Vale, 12 per cent argued that it is acceptable if someone is in a hurry or only wants to stay a few minutes. Surprisingly, in Bridgend county borough, only three per cent agreed with this.

More than a third of those questioned in the Vale said illegal users of these spaces should be clamped or towed away, while in Bridgend, only 11 per cent felt that way.

Although the new-style badges are issued by local councils, they are linked to a new UK database of eligible users. This makes it much easier for police and parking wardens anywhere in the country to verify whether or not a badge is being used legitimately.

Baroness Grey-Thomson backed the tightening-up of the system and said she was keenly aware of the problems caused by abusers, even though they constitute only a minority of the motoring public.

She said: "I think this issue has got worse and gradually the problem has become more widespread over the years. People do cheat the system."

The multiple Paralympic medal winner, who is a wheelchair user, said she has personally experienced the problem.

She explained: "I need the space to open my car door wide enough to get my wheelchair out and yet people use the bays when they shouldn't."

Fellow Paralympic medal winner and Beijing record breaker Simon Richardson from Porthcawl says that the problem is everywhere and it's rising.

He said: "Generally, the issue is the same everywhere you go. If there is a space, people use it no matter what it's for.

"People are just jumping out of their car, running out into the supermarket and not thinking before they use the spaces. There is a definite need to tighten the rules."

The Minister for Local Government and Communities, Carl Sargeant, said "The new and more secure Blue Badge is designed to prevent misuse of these permits and reduce illegal parking in these spaces generally.

"The survey shows there is strong public support for this. While only a small minority break the rules, they can make life a misery for many disabled vehicle users. We need to stamp out this practice."

In Wales, there are around 230,000 Blue Badges in use and 2.5 million across the UK. An official UK Government report has pointed to widespread abuse of the system, either through forgery of badges or use of real badges by those not entitled to use them.

The report estimated that fraudulent or improper use of these badges also costs the UK a total of £46million a year in parking fee evasion.

Introduction of the new-style blue badges began in April this year and they will be issued to all eligible users as their existing permits fall due for renewal over the next three years.

• What do GEM readers think? Email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by ***Richard Sims***
Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Talbot Centre diary

RICK, CHERYL and the management committee of Talbot Community Centre would like to give a massive thanks to everyone who made a donation towards the purchase and installation of a new commercial cooker at the centre.

At difficult times like the present, it is the kindness of a few people in the community that helps to keep the Talbot, which is a small registered charity, operating for the benefit of the community.

Day out – A day trip has been organised to Gloucester on Thursday September 27.

They will be calling for lunch on the way before going on to the Gloucester Waterfront, with all its little antique outlets and/or the cathedral, depending on the weather, and then on to an out of town departmental store in Ross.

There are a few places left, so if you are interested, contact Cheryl to book a seat.

Calendar – Look out for the 'Now and Then' calendar, which will be on sale from October.

It will hold photographs of Kenfig Hill and District from the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries.

If you have friends or relatives who have moved away from the area, it would be an ideal gift to take them down memory lane.

Activities – Following the summer recess, all activities such as judo, craft classes, computer classes as well as the diner and bingo are now in full swing again.

For details of all activities and availability of the Talbot for parties, seminars, training and company functions, telephone Cheryl Butcher on 01656 749754.

Llys Ton concert

KENFIG HILL & District Male Voice Choir will be performing at the Llys Ton Complex, Waunbant Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday, September 10 at 7pm. Cost of entry is just £3, including a drink.

These evenings are very popular as the choir always seem to create a special atmosphere. Everyone is invited to what promises to be great evening.

For further information of activities at Llys Ton, telephone 01656 745666.

Wellbeing Centre

ACTIVITIES held by Mental Health Matters, Wales, at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on September 5, will include a talk by Gwyneth Poacher from Sandville Self Help Centre at 2pm–5pm, and the reading group from 3pm-4pm.

There will also be a social afternoon from 1pm–5pm.

St James' Church

A Dad's Army night is being held in the Parish Hall, Pyle on Tuesday September 11 at 7pm. Uniforms and medals are optional, but bring your ration books.

Tickets are £3. For further information of this and other events happening in the parish, ring Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500 or 07766 710373, or Gareth Gardener on 07779 239302.

Kenfig Society

On Tuesday September 18, Sarah Hughes will be giving a talk on St Teilo's Church.

This 14th century church was dismantled and taken from its original site at Pontardulais and reconstructed at St Fagans Museum, Cardiff. It should be a enthralling talk as St Teilo's has a most interesting history.

For those wishing to attend, the meeting starts at 7pm in Pyle Life Centre, Pyle.

For more information about the Kenfig Society and details about future talks, ring Terry Robbins on 01656 782351.

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Family Notices

THOROGOOD
Kenneth Arthur

Peacefully, on August 23rd at his home in Llantwit Major, Ken (Warrant Officer Retired, RAF).

Dearly loved husband of Elizabeth, loving father of Eileen and Steven, father-in-law of Alan and Yvonne, adored grandfather.
In our thoughts forever and ever.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday August 31st, service 12.30pm at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major followed by cremation at the Coity Chapel, Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 1.45pm.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations in lieu if desired may be sent to The Galilee Chapel Fund, St Illtuds Church c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ

FLANDERS (nee Williams)
Agnes Elizabeth

Agnes, of Llantwit Major, passed away peacefully on 24th August with family at her side aged 83.

Beloved wife of Denzil, devoted and cherished mother to Alison and Paul, mamgu to Rachel, Jennifer, Patrick and David, and great-mamgu to Sophia, Grace and Michael.
Will be hugely and sadly missed by all.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon, Funeral to be held at 1.30pm on Thursday, 6th September at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm.
Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

Birthdays

Pauline Thomas
(née Burnett)
Happy 70th Birthday
September 4, 2012
Have a lovely time!
Love Tony, Ben, Simon, Perri, Neva and Carys XXX

John McGhan
Happy 50th Birthday
on September 3
Have a great day!
Lots of love, Wendy, Marcus, Kirsty, Lewis, Fraser and Peter XXX

JOHN MCGHAN
HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY, BAMPI
on September 3
Lots of love, Grace, Hugo and Darcie XXX

Robert Dixon
Happy 65th Birthday
on September 3rd
Love Elaine, Heather, Darren, Matt, Claire and all the grandchildren xxx

Happy 21st Birthday
CRISSY BROWN
on 1st September, 2012

'You'll always be my little man'
Lots of Love, Dad *x x x*

WILLIAMS
Grace Mary

Kathryn Edmondson and family wish to thank relations and friends for the messages of condolence, floral tributes and support received on the death of her beloved mother, Grace, and for their attendance at her funeral.

BILL WILLIAMS

I would like to thank family and friends for all the cards of sympathy following the sad loss of my very best friend and partner Bill.

I would also like to thank everyone for attending the funeral and the donations for the Myeloma Association.

Gisela Linton

PUGH, Jane
(of Dinas Powys)

A beloved mother, daughter, wife, sister and friend.

Peacefully at home with her daughters and Siamese cats on Tuesday, August 21st, 2012.

Thank you to friends and family for all your support.

BOWEN
Margaret

On Monday, 27th August 2012 at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry after a long illness, Margaret Ruth Mary, eldest daughter of the late Frank and Daisy Hawkins, much loved sister of Frances and the late Jose and Maureen, sister-in-law and friend of the late Gerald, loving aunt to her nephews and nieces.

Funeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 7th September at 1.45pm. Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

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Welsh League Division Two
CWMAMAN INSTITUTE 0
DINAS POWYS 12

THIS was a ruthless performance and once Dinas got their first goal there was going to be only one winner.

The visitors were the better side from the kick-off but couldn't make the most of their chances with Mathew Trottman, Robbie Fowler and player-manager Mark Dunford all having chances to open the scoring.

Dinas were dealt a blow when Trottman limped off to be replaced by Steffan Davies. He made an immediate impact but put his shot wide of the post. He didn't have to wait long though and when Steve Provis's through ball was inch perfect he finished by hooking the ball past keeper Lloyd Waghorn for the first goal.

Chris Hinam and Dunford both shot wide before Dinas got their second just a minute before half-time and again it was substitute Davies who met an excellent low cross from Fowler to fire in from close range. Dinas went in at half-time two goals to the good but nobody was prepared for what would happen in the second.

Cwmaman must have wondered what hit them as within a minute of the restart Fowler's early ball into the area was left by Davies to run on for Dunford who clinically finished from 12 yards.

On four minutes Dunford's ball inside the full-back forced a corner, Liam Jeremy played the ball short to Davies who returned the ball for Jeremy to put in a cross that beat everybody and the ball nestled in the back of the net. Ten minutes later following the introduction of sub Joe Hinds for Dunford, Jeremy scored his second and again the ball found the net this time direct from a corner.

Eighteen minutes into the second-half Davies completed his hat-trick, Adam Raymond won the ball in midfield and played the ball through for Davies to score from 15 yards. Two minutes later Davies was the provider heading a free-kick down for Fowler to steer his shot wide of the keeper and into the net.

On twenty-three minutes it was time for Raymond to get in on the act, he finished off a neat passing move with a low shot followed a couple of minutes later by Hinds heading in a Richard Yarr cross.

On the half-hour Hinds got his second goal with a shot from the edge of the area, nine minutes later came a fine solo effort from Robbie Fowler, taking the ball on the half-way line he went past three defenders before rounding the keeper deep in the area and shooting into an empty net.

There was still time for a second hat-trick and again it was scored by a substitute, Hinds heading in Yarr's cross to complete the scoring and Cwmaman's misery.

Games like this don't come along too often and the players will enjoy the celebrations but will be brought down to earth soon after ready for the next game.

Squad: 1 Damian Lack, 2 Steve Provis, 3 Chris Hinam, 4 Mike Lewis, 5 Rhys Davies, 6 Adam Raymond(1) (c), 7 Robbie Fowler (2), 8 Richard Yarr, 9 Mathew Trottman, 10 Mark Dunford(1), 11 Liam Jeremy(2), 12 Adrian Harvey, 14 James Williams, 15 Joe Hinds(3), 16 Steffan Davies(3).

WELSH LEAGUE DIVISION TWO:
ELY RANGERS 1
DINAS POWYS 3

Dinas have not yet hit the form they attained towards the end of last season but they are unbeaten so far with 2 draws and 2 wins under their belt and they proved too strong for Rangers at Wenvoe last Tuesday.

The home side gained the majority of possession in the opening minutes but it was Dinas who had the first meaningful attacks with Robbie Fowler on the right the first to trouble the Rangers' defence.

On a couple of occasions he got the better of his defender to produce excellent balls across the Rangers area but unfortunately the balls were just beyond the Dinas forwards. On 18 minutes Dinas went ahead when a rash challenge on Matt Trottman deep in the area saw the referee immediately point to the spot and player manager Mark Dunford stepped up to send keeper Hart the wrong way to score.

A couple of minutes later they doubled their lead with the best move of the game involving 5 players, the ball was swiftly transferred from defence to Adam Raymond in the area his accurate cross to the far post gave Fowler the easiest of tasks to slot the ball home from a couple of yards.

Rangers' Jordan Cottrell had a couple of long range shooting opportunities off target but just before half-time it was Dinas who should have added to their lead when Richard Yarr found Dunford in acres of space.

He moved forward but placed his shot not only wide of the keeper but also the post.

The lights came on for the second-half and Rangers again had the major share of possession with Dinas content to contain them; at the back Mike Lewis covered well making a number of timely interceptions and Chris Hinam was playing his usual composed game.

Going forward Trottman fired a ball across the keeper but also wide of the post before he laid the ball on for Dunford to shoot over from the edge of the area.

Mid-way through the second-half Dinas got their third, Fowler and Trottman again played their parts in the build-up before a 15 yard shot rebounded off the cross-bar hitting an unfortunate defender on the back before rolling across the goal-line.

Rangers got their goal 5 minutes from time when a cross from the right was headed home by substitute Dominic Pates. Dinas played out the remaining 5 minutes without any major scares.

Next game, Dinas Powys v Cardiff Corries kick off 2:30pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's web site: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk.

MW

Barry RFC impress against District side

ON Wednesday last week, the celebration of a century and a quarter of rugby in Barry continued, with a home fixture against a strong Cardiff & District Select.

The evening match was blessed with fine, autumnal weather of sunshine and a strong westerly wind.

Barry started with the twin advantages of wind and gradient. They established a foothold in Cardiff territory from which Hewitson was held up just short of the line. With the pack pressing forward, justice was done when Evans crossed from close range.

The visitors were stung by this reverse and replied with a fine try wide out to level the scores. Both teams were intent on playing open rugby and they succeeded in producing a very enjoyable spectacle.

Ryan fielded a high ball and launched a counter attack, which was rounded-off by Deguara forcing over near the posts. The first half drew to a conclusion with an exchange of tries, the Barry score being credited to hooker Evans.

Barry rang the changes during the second session but their cohesion was undiminished. They were soon further ahead via a try by Poole to which Cardiff responded with one of their own. Their conversion was of the "in-off the post" variety.

Ten minutes in Luke O'Sullivan got onto the score sheet with a fine long-range try. Barry continued playing positive rugby with flair and pace in attack and solidity and concentration in defence.

Cardiff could not match these facets of play and were undone at regular intervals. Tries now came regularly the Barry scorers being Provis, Lee and Dix.

Despite being a non-league fixture, all the Barry players should be pleased with such a promising performance.

Of particular note was the contribution made by the newcomers. There was a good blend of youth and experience that will serve them well in the forthcoming season.

Team: Rhys O'Sullivan, Alun Evans, Hollister, Deguara, Scott, (who also featured against Cardiff) Lee Jones, Hadfield, L.O'Sullivan, Thorne, Hewitson, Alex Evans, Ryan Gooderham, Rhys Gooderham, J.Williams, Ryan. Replacements. D.Williams, Provis, Lee, Taylor, Vidal, Poole, Dix, Hunt, Lundt, Elsworth, Hywel Jones, Rolfe, Rendell, Poole.

CO

PETANQUE JOY FOR SMITH AND ELSTON

A hard-fought final involving former Penarth president Tony Smith and his partner Dave Elston, and their opponents John Barnes and Roger Griffin capped an enthralling day of skilful pétanque at Penarth Petanque Club at the Kymin, Penarth on August 12.

Smith and Ellison eventually triumphed 13-12 to take the Colin Ballet memorial trophy.

Husband and wife team Geoff and Cath Jones took the plate final 13-7 against John Thorne and Pauline Thorne. Prizes were presented by Simone Ballet, whose husband Colin Ballett, the competition commemorates.

It proved to be an intriguing day of high quality pétanque as the piste got faster and faster as it dried in the afternoon sun leading to some interesting pointing techniques.

No pair dominated the morning round-robin session in which three rounds were played – all the teams tasted defeat at some point – with the final groupings worked out on points difference.

But the real winner was the game of pétanque which continues to thrive in Penarth. The club meets each Sunday at 11am at the Kymin and visitors and new members are welcome.

Contact Valerie Falconer (secretary) on 0447800976448 or Lynda Williams (club captain) on 0447976847540, or for more information, visit www.welsh-petanque.org.uk. JS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Paralysed driver warns: 'Don't buy part worn tyres!'

A MOTORIST paralysed in a horrific car accident when driving on part worn tyres is hoping his story will urge other drivers to think twice about which tyres they choose.

He suffered terrible life-changing injuries and is now permanently paralysed from the top of his chest down, only able to move his arms and neck. He has also experienced emotional scars, often enduring nightmarish flashbacks to that fateful day.

All of the tyres on the car had recently been purchased in a part-worn condition and a police investigation blamed them as a major contributory factor.

He had always bought part worn tyres and replaced them every few months, unaware of the safety risks associated with buying used tyres.

"I thought I was saving money with part worn tyres but I've paid a terrible price; if I knew then what I know now, I would never have bought part worn tyres. Unfortunately, for me it's too late, but I would urge other drivers to steer clear of part worn tyres and always opt for brand new ones," he said.

TyreSafe, a leading tyre safety organisation, recently revealed the alarming findings of an ongoing investigation it carried out with Auto Express magazine into part warn tyres.

Having bought 50 part worn tyres, these were inspected by an independent tyre expert, who found that 98 per cent of the tyres were being sold illegally.

However, of more concern was that over a third of the tyres were found to contain other potentially dangerous forms of damage or non-compliance with part worn tyre legislation.

Stuart Jackson, chairman, TyreSafe: "All tyres suffer from wear over time but TyreSafe always advocates the fitting of brand new tyres as the safest option.

"It's impossible to know the history of part worn tyres and the true extent of any damage which may have occurred inside the tyre. Only by choosing brand new tyres can you be sure that it is free from any hidden dangers and able to offer the safest driving possible."

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THE LAND ROVER DEFENDER TAKES US TO A BYGONE ERA!

SINCE 1948, there has only been one vehicle for serious off-roading – the British-built Land Rover, which has earned a reputation as the most rugged and versatile 4x4 in the world.

Which, of course, is why the British Army, the Fire Brigade and countless aid organisations throughout the world, use them.

The current model was introduced in 2007 and an average 25,000 are sold every year.

"The substantial improvements to the Defender in 2007 transformed its on-road refinement and comfort whilst extending its legendary capability off-road for which Defender is synonymous," says John Edwards, Land Rover Global Brand Director.

"With the introduction of the new 2.2-litre diesel engine and two option packs, the Defender for 2012 now offers greater customer choice than ever before," he adds.

Despite the smaller capacity and reduced emissions, the new engine produces the same power as the outgoing 2.4-litre engine. Performance remains similar, too, though the top speed has been raised to 90mph, compared to 82mph for the previous version.

In Indus silver the riveted aluminium Defender 90 XS Station Wagon tested looks "like a sardine can", according to a work colleague – an unfair and unjustified remark, I say. I feel it's particularly striking, while also being hugely practical as its body will remain rust free for many years to come. It's quite incredible how the design has remained virtually unchanged since its introduction all those years ago.

This three-door vehicle has a very loyal following. In much the same way as motorhome drivers wave at each other so do, I am pleased to report, Land Rover Defender drivers, too.

It makes such a pleasant change to the aggressive competition that is prevalent on Britain's roads today.

Inside, you are transported to a bygone era – again few changes have been made over the last 64 years. It's really refreshing. I sat in the driver's seat for a good 10 minutes trying to figure out where to slot the ignition key.

It's on the left of the steering wheel and rather than turning it away from you, the driver has to turn it towards them.

Space between the front occupants and their doors is tight, too, meaning that resting arms on the door frame isn't particularly comfy.

There aren't any airbags either and the dash is given to practicality rather than design, but it's attractive in a Tonka toy sense of the word.

The passenger grab bar is certainly appreciated by my wife during our cross-country jaunt. Its windscreen wipers remind me of an old Mini or a classic car of that era, quite small and slow.

These could be improved for serious offroaders, I feel, who need wipers more capable of removing mud from the screen, but if there haven't been any complaints over the decades, then who am I to question?

Modern Land Rovers get carpets and leather-trimmed seats. The test model is even fitted with air con, electric windows and a CD player.

The Defender will seat four adults in comfort and the rear seats incorporate an easy-to-use spring-assisted fold mechanism, useful when they need to be moved out of the way for carrying large or awkward loads.

Driving a Land Rover is an entirely unique experience. Thankfully, there is power steering these days but the handbrake is awkwardly placed at the side of the driver's left leg, requiring them to lean forward to operate it, quite a chore when performing a hill start.

The 2.2-litre diesel unit is vocal and the stereo has to be turned up to drown it out. Apparently, the lower first gear provides a low crawl speed, making towing on-road and off-road easier. When making a gear change on the six-speed manual box there is a very distinctive sound as the gears slot into place. Generally, gear changes are stiff rather than smooth.

Bear in mind that the previous week I was testing a top-of-the-range Range Rover Autobiography where everything was electrically operated and adjusted.

Driving the much more basic Land Rover is an absolute contrast, as you will see at testdrives.biz. But in many ways it is a more enjoyable driving experience as there are fewer bells and whistles.

Although it's permanent four-wheel drive, the high ratio for road driving and low ratio for off-roading are manually operated by a lever next to the gearbox and that's generally all the Land Rover driver has to worry about.

This lever can be changed at speeds of up to five mph, and the Land Rover will travel at up to 40 mph when in low ratio, making it a formidable vehicle and an absolute must during amber weather warnings, which hit the UK during the test.

It's interesting to note that the Defender's facia is based on a single, large moulding supported on a robust steel rail to help eliminate squeaks and rattles and this seems to work very well indeed.

A 60-litre fuel tank sees the Land Rover cover around 330 miles from full and you can see why hardened Land Rover enthusiasts fit a second tank to enhance its range.

Overall, though, it is easy to see why the keenly-priced Land Rover Defender is so popular.

On the road price: £29,500 including VAT.
Engine: 2.2 litre diesel.
Transmission: manual six speed.
Fuel consumption: combined 27.7 mpg.
CO2 Emissions: 269 g/km.

Watch the video at: www.testdrives.biz.

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GEM sport

Bridgend Athletic get set for life in the Championship

AFTER almost 10 years playing in the west region, this season marks a significant change for Bridgend Athletic RFC, as they compete in the newly-formed SWALEC Championship.

Athletic finished in sixth place in last year's SWLAEC One West and make the step up to what looks like being an extremely competitive division.

The pan-Wales Championship combines some of the best teams from last season's Division One East and West plus Pontypool.

"The creation of a new National Championship offers an exciting, highly competitive, new level of rugby for both players and supporters to enjoy," said WRU head of rugby Joe Lydon.

"This new league will form the top level of the community game in Wales and we are all looking forward to working even harder to ensure a strong future for this and all levels of rugby in Wales."

Huw Lock, SWALEC Sponsorship Manager, added: "We are delighted to welcome the new SWALEC Championship into the National League structure. As National Community Partner of the WRU, we are proud to support grassroots rugby across Wales through our sponsorship of the National Leagues and Cup competitions."

Bridgend Athletic captain Matthew Hillman has welcomed the introduction of the Championship and is looking forward to the challenge of taking on new opponents.

"It's going to be tough with the three best teams from the west and the three best from the east but hopefully we're more than up for it," he said.

"We've been playing west for six to eight years so it'll be nice to play some clubs from the east. It's very much a new challenge."

Last year's finishing position suggests Athletic may struggle in the Championship and Hillman admitted he would settle for a mid-table position come the end of the season.

"Our aim is to be mid-table and just be competitive," he said.

Athletic start their campaign at home to Bonymaen who finished well below them in last year's One West division and they will be hoping home advantage will see them secure an opening day win.

The formation of the Championship sees sides from different geographical areas play together in one league for the first time.

But Hillman has played down the difference between the sides from the two regions on the eve of the season.

"I think people just assume that teams in one east are a lot more pack orientated and powerful than the teams from the west" he said.

"With the best teams from each, the Championship is going to be a tough challenge.

"That's what we've expected when we've been preparing in pre-season. We've worked with the forwards and hope our backs can carry on with what they've been doing over the last few years." **AB**

Wick RFC in hunt for coach

WICK RFC are in search of: a senior rugby coach.

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Tim's treble joy!

HAVE horses, will travel – that's the motto of Aberthin's Tim Vaughan who travelled to far flung Perth, and had plenty to smile about on the long way home after saddling three winners.

He won with former point-to-pointers Ruttan Lake and Bingo Des Mottes and

Skylancer. Aidan Coleman was aboard Ruttan Lake and Richard Johnson,who also won the opener on Cosmic Wonder, rode Tim's other winners.

Local horse racing trainers also did well at the two-day Ffos Las meeting last week.

On Thursday, Aberthin's Tim Vaughan won the opener with Miracle House (Richard Johnson) and Bridgends's John Flint took the closing event with 7-1 chance First Beauty which was partnered by his son Tom.

Robbie Williams, riding 12-1 chance Dancewiththedevil, trained by his grandfather Bernard Llewellyn at Bargoed, gained a neck victory over Praxiteles and on the Friday Llancarfan's Evan Williams was successful with 12-1 chance Simarian which came home 13 lengths ahead of Royal Scoundrel. Simarian was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney.

BRIAN LEE

Pencoed edge a close encounter of friendly kind

PENCOED can consider themselves extremely fortunate to have won this pre-season friendly at Cwmavon by 14-21, the match being played over four 20-minute periods.

A prior match agreement allowed Cwmavon to include players from the Baglan club during the course of the match.

Pencoed created a number of early chances which went astray before Cwmavon came into the match to get on top territorially for the remainder of the opening twenty minutes which ended 0-0.

Pencoed made nine changes for the second period with Cwmavon introducing a number of Baglan players. The home combination deservedly opened the scoring, exposing a fragile Pencoed defence deep in their -22.

Pencoed, perhaps understandably, were playing with little cohesion; however, the pluses for them during this period were takes against the throw at the lineout from young Chris John, and the not so young James Murphy.

Pencoed's own lineout at this juncture somewhat suspect. The home side continued to lead 5-0 going into the final period and increased their lead with a counter attack, releasing their full back, who outpaced a desperate covering Pencoed defence.

Going into the final five minutes 12-0 down, only the most ardent of Pencoed supporters would not have contemplated defeat. However, Aaron Songhurst gave his side a glimmer of hope, picking a good angle to slice through at the posts. Marc Davies slotted a quickly taken drop goal conversion.

On the resumption of play, Pencoed struck to deny Cwmavon victory,.

Glen Hiscocks put in possession some 40 metres out, escaped the grasp of several home defenders to race away to cross at the posts, Davies snatching victory from Cwmavon with the conversion at the death!

The structure of this match makes things difficult to assess, but what is apparent is that Pencoed will have to raise their level of performance over the 80 minutes to get a result at Ystalyfera in their opening Division 3 South West match.

Glen Hiscock breaks through Cwmavon's defence.
(PHOTOS BY JULIE HANCOCK)

Pencoed youth continued their pre season success with a hard earned 10-3 victory at Llantrisant, never an easy place to get a result.

In what was essentially a good all round team effort, the win was based on a strong defensive performance against a bigger, more experienced home side, with Jack Picton and Shane Izatt the Pencoed try scorers.

Players who caught the eye were the outstanding Rhys Bargery, Rhys Vowles with an aggressive defensive game, and Keiron Drinkwater, who showed good control in the unfamiliar role of fly half.

Pencoed under-10s opened the Pencoed R.F.C. family day on bank holiday Sunday with a friendly match against Bridgend Sports R.F.C., spectators from both clubs enjoying this see-saw match.

Tries for Pencoed came from the dynamic Sam Hayman Tucker (2) Lois Gomez (2) Scott Maidment and Wil Hurley.

The skills on display at this stage of their development augurs well for both clubs. Thanks are expressed to both camps for their participation on the day. **TR**

Aaron Songhurst grounds to score.

Bridge results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent evenings are:

Wednesday, August 22 - First Liam Sheridan and Mike Best, second John Henson and Geoff Tinkler and joint third Mel Humphries and Glyn Williams and Norma and David Newman.

Friday, August 24 - First Mary Moore and Bill Turner, second John and Christine Evans, third Barrie Jenkins and Connie Clancy.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Nolton Church Hall, there are lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7pm with Graham Jones.

All welcome, to register an interest please contact Graham Jones 01446 775952, Steve Burgoyne 01656 661968 or David Newman 01656 649138.

On Thursday, September 27 at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, John Evans will be giving lessons for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve their bidding and card play.

For full details and to register an interest, please contact John on 01656 880372. **DN**